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EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

TO .

A. B. T.

FROM

EDWARD P. WILLIAMS

DURING HIS SERVICE IN THE CIVIL WAR
1862-1864



NEW YORK
FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION
1903

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

About three years ago I had occasion to examine some boxes of old papers. In one of them I found several packages of my own letters, written during my term of army-service. Up to that time I was not aware of their preservation. After the birth of my son, Richard Everard, in January, 1902, it occurred to me that I ought to print, for his benefit, some extracts from these letters, so that, in later years, he might learn from them something of the part, insignificant though it was, I had taken in the Civil War, nearly forty years before he was born. This little book is the result.

E. P. W.

New York, November, 1903.

FORT WAYNE, IND., AUG. 29, 1862.

Yesterday I received a dispatch from Indianapolis saying that Governor Morton had appointed me first lieutenant and adjutant of the One-hundredth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. My commission will come in a few days. The adjutancy is a very good position, and I am better qualified for it than for anything else. No colonel has yet been appointed.

FORT WAYNE, IND., SEPT. 1, 1862.

Have been in camp three days attending to duties. My commission came last Saturday. I am the only officer of the regiment yet appointed and commissioned. No one knows who is to be our colonel.

FORT WAYNE, IND., SEPT. 6, 1862.

I understand Governor Morton has determined to send no more troops out of the State

until they are well drilled. If this is true, our regiment may be in the State some time yet. We may go to Indianapolis Saturday night, to be drilled, clothed and armed. We have only six hundred men now in camp. Have no idea who will be our field officers.

FORT WAYNE, IND., SEPT. 7, 1862.

A dispatch, received to-day, says we must be in Indianapolis by daylight to-morrow. We leave to-night. Have only six hundred men, however. Whether they will give us time there to recruit a full regiment, or consolidate us with others, I do not know. Brother Henry's battery (Eleventh Indiana) has returned to Nashville.

CAMP MORTON, INDIANAPOLIS,
SEPT. 10, 1862.

Wrote you on Sunday before leaving home. Have had no time since to write, being so exceedingly busy in arranging our camp and getting things in order. We are in the old campground of the Confederate prisoners, which they left in a very filthy condition, and we have, therefore, lots of work to do to set things right.

No more officers appointed, except the quar-

termaster, A. M. Tucker, from Elkhart county, a very gentlemanly and clever young man, who will make good company. Since coming here I have virtually been in command of our camp.

We are to be mustered in to-morrow, and Captain Hough of the Regular Army has been appointed to take charge of, and drill, us before going into the field. There is no telling how soon we may be ordered away. We are trying hard to remain until we are well drilled, and until the other four companies are recruited, but I am afraid the exigency of the times will not permit us to stay so long. So far, I like the life very well, notwithstanding we left Fort Wayne in a terribly disheartening rain. Have very cold nights, and in the confusion of moving camp, none too much to eat. Still I get along first-rate. Am kept quite busy.

Have seen none of my friends in Indianapolis yet. We are fully two miles from the business part of the city. Have been in two or three times, but only on business for the regiment.

Saw my cousin John Ball yesterday. He is just from Kentucky. Was Col. Topping's orderly, fought at Richmond, Ky., was taken

prisoner and paroled. Was here yesterday on his way home (Terre Haute).

CAMP MORTON, INDIANAPOLIS,
SEPT. 12, 1862.

I am rushed with business, having the work of several officers to do, and we are much cramped for quarters—four of us in a very small and leaky shanty. We are doing finely in camp, all happy and contented—the best lot of men I ever saw together. They govern themselves and need but little watching. No more officers appointed since my last letter. There is every prospect of our being here another week. Governor Morton and most of our military men are now in Cincinnati, looking after matters there.

Have been in the city every day, but on business only. To-day, for the first time, took occasion to call upon the Mears and the Sheets families.

Took a severe cold the first night I spent in this camp, the blankets sent out to us being a little bit damp. Am getting over it now.

Father, when here, looked at several horses for me, but none suited. He went night before last to Goshen to buy a horse, which has been

very highly recommended. May possibly have it to-morrow. I need a horse very much, having to take in my report (two miles) every day.

Nothing later from Col. Link. He was severely wounded and taken prisoner at Richmond, Ky., and is at the house of a wealthy Union man. We are expecting in a day or two, in our camp, about fifteen hundred of our men, paroled prisoners, from the Richmond fight, a great many of Col. Link's men among them. I suppose you know that Captain George Nelson and Adjutant Jared Bond are safe.

CAMP MORTON, INDIANAPOLIS,

SEPT. 25, 1862.

We have now lively times in camp, having over three thousand troops, among whom is the remnant of the Twelfth Indiana (Col. Link's). Adjutant Bond, Captain Nelson, and Lieutenant Godown are here. Since the Louisville scare has passed, we have a good prospect of being here two weeks longer. Day before yesterday had another company mustered into our regiment, making now seven full companies. We are expecting every day to be

filled up with odd companies, and that our field officers will then be appointed.

Col. Link's funeral took place yesterday in Fort Wayne.

CAMP MORTON, INDIANAPOLIS,
OCT. 3, 1862.

Three companies were assigned to our regiment to-day, which makes us full, but our officers have not yet been appointed, and will not be until the return of Governor Morton, who left last night for Washington. Will return in about ten days.

I enclose a newspaper account of our review last Wednesday. Everything passed off admirably, but I assure you I was very tired. Was in the saddle two hours in the morning, and from one o'clock until half after six in the afternoon—a pretty good ride for one not accustomed to it. I was out in my full dress suit, the first occasion I had to make use of it. My horse took cold from being overheated, and was quite sick yesterday. Is much better to-day.

CAMP MORTON, INDIANAPOLIS,
OCT. 5, 1862.

Nothing new in the regiment. Have now ten companies, numbering nine hundred and

fourteen men, and they are about equipped with every thing necessary for a march, except field officers.

There was preaching this evening, but none during the day, the men having been kept busy cleaning up the grounds. The whole camp (thirty acres) was swept thoroughly. I do not approve of making the men work so much on Sunday. Have not been to church for two weeks, nor been out of camp since Thursday.

My horse is entirely well. Dr. McKinney, the former owner, was here Saturday. He says the horse's name is "Bill."

CAMP MORTON, INDIANAPOLIS,
Nov. 2, 1862.

On Friday all the troops about here were mustered for pay. When we shall receive the pay is another matter. We hope to have it soon, before we move. There has been some talk about moving us this week, but there is no certainty in regard to it. We are all getting tired of Camp Morton duty, which is now principally holding in check the rebellious among the paroled prisoners, three thousand of whom have lately come into our camp. We are anx-

ious too to join our four companies now in Kentucky, so that we may drill together.

Mr. Case, you probably know, has declined his appointment (colonel).

Mr. Peter P. Bailey was down to see us yesterday. Sarah Mears and her brother drove down and made me a call on Wednesday.

I am fast making a reputation for sobriety and reliability by my oft repeated refusals to drink. I make no boast of my teetotalism and no effort to make my sentiments known, yet my friends are learning that it is of little use to urge me to "take something." Not a game of cards have I played, nor drank a glass of liquor since coming into camp.

CAMP MORTON, INDIANAPOLIS,

Nov. 9, 1862.

We were all paid off yesterday, and had our guns exchanged for splendid Enfield rifles, the best gun I ever saw.

To-day the four river companies moved outside in tents. As soon as we receive the full complement of tents for the regiment, we shall be ready to leave.

Rev. Mr. Munn has been appointed Chaplain, and will be with us on Tuesday. Am

sorry to say we know no Sunday here.' It is hard work every day. Never in all my life has time passed so rapidly as here. I am busy with something pertaining to the regiment all the time.

When father was here we called upon General Morris. He was then undecided as to accepting the commission of major-general. He promised me a staff appointment in case he accepted. Since then, as you have seen in the newspapers, he has declined the promotion to major-general.

Saw General Buell on the street yesterday.

My pay for two months and five days, to Oct. 31, was two hundred and fifty-eight dollars.

Enclosed is a copy of letter, received yesterday, from Major-General Love. It was unsolicited and entirely unexpected.

HEADQUARTERS, INDIANAPOLIS,
Nov. 8, 1862.

Lieut. E. P. Williams,
Adj't. 100th Reg. Ind. Vols.
Sir,

As your regiment is about to take the field, it is due to you to say, and I take pleasure in saying it, that for the two months you have

been in camp here, under by immediate supervision, you have discharged the duties of your office faithfully and efficiently; that those duties have been more than usually responsible, growing out of the fact that for the greater part of the time, since the organization of your regiment, there has been no field officer on duty. With every wish for your success,

I am Very respectfully

JOHN LOVE,
MAJ. GENL. IND. LEGION.

CAIRO, ILLS., NOV. 13, 1862.

ON BOARD STEAMER IOWA.

Left Indianapolis Tuesday night at 8 o'clock. Came through to this place without change of cars, arriving at 3 o'clock this morning. All baggage is loaded, and we are off for Memphis in an hour. Are to report there to Major General McClelland. Expect to be in Memphis Saturday morning. Father and mother were in Indianapolis to see me, for two days just prior to the regiment's departure.

MEMPHIS, TENN., NOV. 17, 1862.

I dropped you a few lines from Cairo, and then expected to reach this place Saturday morning. Did not arrive, however, until Sunday morning at 9 o'clock. The day was taken up with

moving, preparing the ground, and pitching our tents. Nor was our work finished many hours too soon, as it began to rain about dark, and has continued, at intervals, until now, with every prospect of another wet day to-morrow. Our camp-ground, on a clay bluff, about a half mile below the steamboat landing, is now ankle-deep in mud.

The weather was delightful during our whole trip. There were no accidents and everything passed off pleasantly. Owing to the very low stage of water, we were obliged to proceed cautiously and tie up at night. Three nights were thus spent upon the river. Several times we ran aground, and at one shoal place (Saturday morning) were obliged to disembark the regiment on the Arkansas shore, and march it some two miles down the river, and there wait for the boat to worry its way through. At this point we left the Continental, a large side-wheel steamer, drawing much more water than our boat. It had on board the Thirty-first Iowa, and had been more than two weeks making its way from Davenport. In some places there was barely five feet of water in the channel.

Troops are pouring in fast. Two regiments

came just before us, one just after, and another to-day. General McClelland is not here. I went with Lieutenant-Colonel Heath, immediately upon our arrival, to report to General Sherman. He assigned us at once to the Second Brigade, Colonel McDowell, Sixth Iowa, commanding, in General Denver's division. Our brigade is made up of the Sixth Iowa, Fortieth Illinois, Forty-sixth Ohio, Thirteenth Regulars, and One-hundredth Indiana. Our regiment is the largest, the others averaging between five and six hundred only.

Our destination is Vicksburg, overland route, I suppose, as we can hardly afford to await a rise in the river sufficient for transporting us. The river is falling at the rate of six inches per day. When we move, we will be allowed but seven wagons to the whole regiment. The men must leave their tents and knapsacks. Only four wall-tents for field and staff officers will be allowed. The authorities are determined that we shall move fast, and not be encumbered with long baggage-trains.

Memphis is a pretty place, but everything is held at four prices, except negroes, who command no price whatever.

Lieutenant-Colonel Heath is highly pleased with our Chaplain, Mr. Munn, and compliments him highly. He (Munn) is becoming a great favorite with the men, owing to his constant attention to the sick upon the steamer. The captain and clerk of the Iowa told Colonel Heath that he was the best chaplain they had ever seen.

Before leaving Indianapolis, General Morris gave me a very flattering letter to General Reynolds, as did also Mr. Jackson, a friend of General Reynolds. Genl. Love, a copy of whose letter I sent you, is quite intimate with General Reynolds, and it is possible he may speak a good word for me.

MEMPHIS, TENN., NOV. 25, 1862.

We are all very busy to-day, having received marching orders for to-morrow at 8 o'clock A. M. We go south to Grenada, thence on to Jackson, Miss. The plan is to take Vicksburg by taking Jackson and cutting off supplies, in the same way that Columbus, Ky. was taken by the fall of Fort Donelson and Nashville. The whole force is under marching orders. With General Grant's army at Grand Junction, ours here, and another large force at Helena,

it is expected that we shall be able to sweep everything before us to the Gulf, literally clearing out the Mississippi valley. We leave all our sick behind, and those who are likely to drop by the way. Take only shelter tents, though there is word this morning that we cannot be furnished with even these, and that at night we will occupy the houses, barns, cotton-sheds and tobacco warehouses, which we may find along the way. The wagons will carry only cooking utensils and provisions. The rest must be taken upon the backs of the men.

The Twelfth Indiana (Captain Nelson's regiment), our neighbors at Camp Morton, arrived last night, and are under marching orders similar to ours. Five more regiments at Camp Morton are also destined for Grenada.

Our sick list now reaches one hundred and ten. Three of our men have died since coming here. Change of climate and the heavy rains are probably the causes. I am well, and said to be getting stout.

Took a ride around Memphis last Sunday. A quite pretty place with many fine business houses. Business is mostly done by Hebrews, who have come here since the Federal

occupation of the city. Business is more brisk than I expected to see it. Sales of one Hebrew house, last week, were twenty-seven thousand dollars.

Father has gone to Nashville to see Henry.

I had an opportunity to go on the staff of Colonel McDowell commanding brigade, as an aide-de-camp, but would not accept the place, because the position is not permanent. The colonel may, at any time, be deprived of his command, and his staff be returned to their several regiments.

No colonel appointed yet for us, so far as we know.

On Sunday saw George McCagg, Lieutenant of Company A, Chicago Light Artillery. His battery has been here since last July.

There are certainly a few good Union ladies here, as their faithful attendance on our sick in the hospital will testify.

We have a house set apart for our sick. One lady drives there daily, sends her carriage home, and goes to work in earnest. As we came here without surgeons or hospital stores, and as there was some trouble in being furnished here, she told us that our sick *must* be attended to, and went herself to the medical

director, and gave him a good talking-to. Also, she told Colonel Heath that her income was five hundred dollars more than sufficient for her support, and that amount we should have for the comfort of our sick. Pretty good for a Southern lady! Northern women seldom do better. This, however, is an exceptional case. Most of the people are bitter secessionists. Another instance I had almost forgotten. When our quartermaster and I were riding in the suburbs on Sunday we met, in a buggy, a gentleman, about sixty years of age, and his daughter. As we approached they saluted us with their sweetest smiles, merely, I suppose, because they recognized us as Union officers. This exhibition of good-will was indeed refreshing, after meeting so many glum-looking people in the streets of Memphis.

CHICLAHOMA, MISS., DEC. 1, 1862.

Just one week ago to-morrow I wrote you from Memphis. As indicated in that letter, we marched out of Memphis on Wednesday, Nov. 26. Our whole army was under General Sherman, and moved out upon three roads. The other divisions joined ours the next day, about ten miles out. Our first night was spent

in the open air ; not even the colonel's tent was pitched, our baggage train having been delayed. Our camp was in the woods and we slept upon leaves with our feet to the fire. I took my saddle for a pillow, wrapped my overcoat and blanket around me, and turned in. I assure you I have seldom slept warmer, or better, notwithstanding it was clear and cold—cold enough to make ice.

Our first day's march was but seven miles, the second seventeen miles, a rather hard one for our green regiment. Saw on this day, for the first time in my life, cotton growing in the field. Vast quantities are going to waste for the want of hands to pick it. In some places we saw where large piles of cotton had been burned by the Confederates. In others, where the cotton was all ready for firing, but the Confederates *had not had time* to finish their work. As I mentioned before, on the second day we were joined by the other divisions, Smith's and Lauman's. The Twelfth Indiana is in Lauman's division. Saw Adjutant Bond and Lieutenant Godown. Captain Nelson had been left in Indianapolis on business. Water we found scarce and very poor. At our second camping place (Coldwater), however, we

found plenty and very good. This night, as the previous one, was spent in the open air, and with the same good effect. Next day marched fifteen miles to Red Sand Bank Creek. Roads good and weather splendid. This day our division was in advance of the army. Our brigade was second in division and our regiment in advance of brigade. At Red Sand Bank Creek found first-rate water and plenty of it. Spent Saturday there, resting. Buried one of our men who died from eating raw turnips.

Yesterday moved eight miles to this village. Chulahoma is southwest from Holly Springs, and is farther south than our land forces have ever been on this side of the Mississippi River. We are moving to join General Grant on the Tallahatchie River, where, it is said, we will find the enemy. We are now ten or twelve miles from the river. General Sherman's army is about twenty thousand strong, and General Grant has, according to report, forty thousand. General Steele, from Helena, on the Mississippi River, will also join us with twenty or thirty thousand men. We are expecting to hear from him every day. The Confederate pickets retreat before as we advance. Only

yesterday morning five hundred of the enemy's cavalry were here, and as we approached Chulahoma our advance cavalry chased several of them across the creek.

We are subsisting on the enemy as we go. Horses, wagons, mules, corn, fodder, cattle, in short, all things we need, are impressed into service. Our quartermasters give receipts, which will be paid by the Government upon proof of the loyalty of the owners—something they cannot very easily furnish. Our men confiscate some things upon their own hook, such as pigs, chickens, turkeys, honey, sugar, molasses, sweet potatoes, and occasionally a calf, or a sheep. We are “living gay,” I assure you. Remember too that this is the land of persimmons, which are just now ripe.

Negroes are “sticking” to us daily. Left Memphis with none. Now have sixty, or seventy, in the regiment. The colored people are delighted to see us, and even the secessionists treat us civilly.

The people of Chulahoma have almost entirely deserted the place. Two abandoned drug-stores and one grocery have been taken possession of by our troops. In one of the drug-stores, to-day, I picked up a diploma

which had been issued by the Medical College of Louisville, Ky., to Jacob L. Mabry, in the year 1841.* Also found a plot of survey for the Chulahoma Seminary grounds. These documents I enclosed in letter to mother to-day.

Had a heavy storm last night with much wind. Came near having our tent blown down and ourselves drowned out.

Six thousand of our troops were sent out to-day to make a reconnaissance. Have not learned the result. We are encamped in a

*The following letter was published in *The South*, Holly Springs, Marshall Co., Miss., November 20, 1902. Chulahoma is also in Marshall County, but has no newspaper.

Nov. 12TH, 1902.

To the Editor of The South:

Sir:—When General Sherman's troops entered Chulahoma, November 30th, 1862, among them was the 100th Indiana Infantry, of which I was an officer. The next day when strolling about the town, I entered an abandoned drug-store and picked up from the floor a medical diploma, which I mailed to my home in Indiana. Lately, in looking through a box of old papers, I came across this diploma. It was issued by the Medical College of Louisville, Kentucky, in the year 1841, to Jacob L. Mabry. I should like very much to return it to Doctor Mabry, or, if he is not living, send

very strong position and are ready for the enemy from any direction.

It is uncertain whether we shall march in the morning or not. To-morrow a wagon-train will leave for Holly Springs, ten miles distant. The mail goes by this train, the first opportunity for sending letters since leaving Memphis. From Holly Springs there is railroad communication direct to Columbus, Ky.

Frank Sturgis, son of Solomon Sturgis, of Chicago, is with the Division-quartermaster. Is buying cotton.

it to some member of his family, or to some relative, should any such desire to have it.

EDWARD P. WILLIAMS,
524 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

In reply to the above communication, a letter was received from Miss Katherine A. Walker, Galena, Marshall County, Miss., stating that Doctor Mabry was dead, and suggesting that the diploma be sent to his daughter, Miss Lizzie Lee Mabry, Senatobia, Tate County, Miss. (Tate County adjoins Marshall County). The diploma was sent by registered mail, November 25, 1902, and in due time a letter of acknowledgment was received from Miss Mabry, expressing her thankfulness and her joy over the recovery of her father's long lost diploma. And so, at last, the diploma was restored to the family of Doctor Mabry after being in the possession of a stranger for forty years.

We know nothing of what is going on in the North. Have seen no newspaper since leaving Memphis.

Weather and roads have been all we could wish.

Some of our troops have behaved very badly, burning fences, corn, houses, and even churches have not been spared. Our line of march from Memphis is marked for years to come. I hope I may never live on the line of march of any army. Where an army encamps, everything for miles around is literally swept away.

IN THE FIELD, MISSISSIPPI,
TUESDAY, DEC. 2, 1862.

Left Chulahoma this morning at eight o'clock, and, after a march of nine miles, encamped about half a mile from the Tallahatchie River, soon after noon. Rained nearly the whole day, and the roads are getting bad. It is quite cold and very disagreeable. Our men stood the march well, and have made for themselves shelter tents with their rubber blankets. Are learning fast to accommodate themselves to circumstances.

We are on the Ferry road, several miles below the railroad-bridge. The Confederates

skedaddled from here last Sunday, after burning the railroad-bridge and cutting in two the ferryboat. Heard cannonading this afternoon. Afterwards learned that General Grant has crossed the river near the railroad-bridge, and was pursuing the enemy near Abbeville, six or seven miles from us. The firing was there. Our troops are busy building a bridge at this point. We are to push on, and join General Grant as soon as possible.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3.

Are still here. Rain stopped and sun shining splendidly. Roads drying up. Went over this afternoon with our colonel to visit the Twelfth Indiana, which is just half a mile back of us. Saw Lieutenant Godown and Adjutant Bond. Captain Nelson has not yet joined the regiment. Bridge will be finished about midnight, and we shall probably move again in the morning. Four of our companies were out to-day on a foraging expedition.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4.

Still in camp. Weather changed. Slow, steady rain all day. Bridge completed. General Sherman went over to-day to consult with

General Grant, and returned late this evening with marching orders for his army at 7.30 A. M. to-morrow. Confederate General Price is reported near us with eighty thousand men.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5.

Rained all night, and the storm closed with a sprinkling of snow. Hard night on soldiers. Marched to-day nine miles through terribly muddy roads to College Hill, which we reached about 2.30 P. M. The country about here is much better than any we have seen since entering the State. Have passed several very substantial and comfortable looking residences. College Hill contains but a few houses, and is quite pretty. Four and a half miles from here is Oxford, on the railroad. General Grant's army, or rather his advance guard, is there. It is expected that the railroad will be finished and running to that point shortly. Shall then have direct railroad communication with the North. All are getting anxious to see a newspaper. Everything at home may be all right, or the reverse, but it is all the same to us. We are in blissful ignorance of the doings of the world.

About two miles this side of the river we passed unfinished earthworks, which the Confederates had thrown up only last week. They had impressed all the negroes throughout the country for that purpose.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6.

Have been at College Hill all day. Are out of hard-bread, and must wait until the wagon-train arrives from Holly Springs.

Heard to-day that General Steele had marched from Helena and taken Granada, driving out General Van Dorn's forces, and capturing the General's private baggage. General Price is therefore between Steele and us. Bread-train came to-night.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7.

Clear and cold. The ground froze very hard last night. Were all reviewed to-day by General Grant. Mr. Munn preached to us in camp this afternoon. There was also preaching last night and to-night in the village church. Our camp is on the College grounds. The men are making sad havoc, cutting down the beautiful grove for fire-wood. The College is now represented by a small brick school-house about twenty by forty feet.

Our mess is living first-rate just at present. Have corn-bread, fresh beef and fresh pork, tea, coffee, sugar, molasses, honey, sweet and Irish potatoes, dried peaches, etc. Our great want here is good water.

Learned to-night that the mail will leave to-morrow morning for Holly Springs. Have no news from the North since leaving Memphis. Don't know when we shall leave, or where we are going. Some think we will march across the country to the Mississippi and take boats for Vicksburg, while General Grant, with a portion of his forces, moves upon Jackson.

Am perfectly well, and have been all the time. My horse is all right. Saw Ed. Morrison of Fort Wayne to-day. Is in our brigade, a private in Forty-sixth Ohio.

IN THE FIELD, MISSISSIPPI,
MONDAY, DEC. 8, 1862.

Another day at College Hill. Our Generals do not seem to know where the enemy has gone, and are at a loss to know what to do. Weather beautiful.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9.

General Sherman returned to-day to Memphis with General Morgan L. Smith's division. There, I suppose, he will take boats for

Vicksburg. The Thirteenth Regulars were detached from our brigade and added to General Sherman's force. General Denver has now command of this corps, composed of his own and Lauman's divisions, and Colonel McDowell, lately commanding our brigade, now commands the division. General Sherman gave us a parting review at two o'clock this afternoon.

The quartermaster and I rode to Oxford to visit some of our Indiana regiments. Oxford is a quite pretty place, though very hilly and broken. Is about the size of Oxford, Ohio. The railroad is now running to Holly Springs, and will soon be finished to Oxford. The mail and the Chicago newspapers are received daily at Oxford, only four days old. We obtained Chicago Tribune and Cincinnati Commercial of the 5th—a great treat, I assure you. The only papers seen since leaving Memphis.

It is understood that our corps will march straight across the country for the mouth of the Yazoo River.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10.

Another day spent in inactivity, and our fine roads and beautiful weather are not being improved. Our colonel went over to Oxford and

brought us the Chicago Tribune of the 6th, but no mail.

Have marching orders at last. Leave tomorrow morning at nine o'clock. We all like our new commander, General Denver, very much, and think he will push us through fast. We go probably to mouth of Yazoo River. You need not, therefore, expect another letter from me until we reach that point, as there will be no opportunity to write sooner. You must pay the postage on this, as I have no stamps.

CAMP NEAR RAILROAD, ONE MILE NORTH OF
TALLAHATCHIE RIVER, DEC. 26, 1862.

My last letter to you was dated a week and a half ago at camp Yoeknapatalfa, and was sent north with a lieutenant of the Sixth Iowa.*

Everything remained quiet there until last Monday morning, when we were ordered to make the north bank of the Tallahatchie River by Tuesday night. We moved at 7 A. M. and camped on Tobytnby Creek (eighteen miles) at 3 P. M. We had been ordered to

* This letter never reached its destination. See letter dated Jan. 25, 1863.

cross the Tallahatchie at Wyatt, where we had built a bridge on our way down, but on reaching Toby tuby Creek a courier from General McPherson met us with orders to bear to the east, and cross the river at Abbeville, the bridge at Wyatt having been burned. Were off at daylight, passed through College Hill, leaving Oxford on our right, and reached our present camp (fifteen miles) by 2 p. m. This two days' march was very severe on our men, owing to the hilly roads, and their having been so many days idle at Yocknapatafka. All our regiments straggled considerably.

Our division (General Denver's) was farther south than any other, being sixteen miles south of Oxford. The railroad was finished to within a few miles of us and we had already heard the whistle of the engine, when the news came of the shameful disaster at Holly Springs and the destruction of all our stores. At this juncture, our forces were ordered to fall back beyond the Tallahatchie. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, there was a continual stream of soldiers and wagons, from daylight until eight o'clock at night, crossing the river at this point. The troops are now all over. All the cotton has been brought up

from Oxford, and all the railroad-bridges have been destroyed as far up as Abbeville, which is three miles south of the river. The trestle-work, built by our troops across the river, is one-eighth of a mile in length. This too will probably be destroyed by us as soon as the cotton can be carried away.

The Confederate fortifications are very strong, and principally on the south bank of the river, covering the bridge and touching the railroad track on its west side. On the north bank, guarding the approach to the bridge, are strong earthworks for one battery. North of river, for a half-mile, is a low wet bottom with very dense woods. On the first high ground, three-quarters of a mile from river, were two batteries connected by rifle pits. None of the fortifications mentioned had been entirely finished. The reason the Confederates abandoned them was not from any want of strength, but because General Sherman's army from Memphis was about to cross the river at Wyatt, ten miles west, thus turning their left flank and getting in their rear. It would have required very hard work to force them back by a movement directly in front.

A railroad-train passes us three or four times

a day. It does our boys good to see it, having had no such sight since we left Cairo.

Just on the other side of the river, guarding the railroad-bridge, we saw the Twelfth Indiana, which was separated from us at Wyatt, as we went down. They are entirely isolated, belonging to no division, or brigade. General Denver has requested General Grant to assign them to his division. We have every hope that this request will be granted.

Colonel Reub. Williams of the Twelfth Indiana and his quartermaster were in Holly Springs on business at the time of the "surprise," and were taken prisoners and paroled. This is the third time for Colonel Williams, and it annoys him immensely. Our sutler was also there, but fortunately without any goods, and with only eighty dollars in money. This was taken from him and also eleven hundred dollars left with him by a cotton-buyer to pay for cotton. The Confederates even paroled our sutler, which, of course, amounts to nothing, except to prevent him from enlisting, of which there was never any danger. Since we have been here, he has been down to see us and gave an interesting account of the way everything went at Holly Springs. Value of cotton de-

stroyed three million four hundred thousand dollars, all belonging to speculators, from whom was also taken one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in money. The Confederate force was about eight thousand cavalry and mounted infantry. The garrison at Holly Springs was small, but ample to at least have held the enemy in check until reinforcements could come up, had any precautions whatever been taken by the colonel commanding the place. The colonel's name is Murphy, from Wisconsin, and he was taken prisoner in his bed. We are now cut off from supplies, and are on half rations. Cannot tell when our communication will be reopened.

To-day a train of three hundred wagons guarded by five thousand men, started from Holly Springs (fifteen miles distant), for Memphis, for provisions. Our quartermaster went with them. He had started to Memphis, while we were yet at Yocknapatafka, to get our tents, but went no farther than Oxford, being stopped by the dash on Holly Springs.

Our division has received no mail since leaving Memphis. Nor has the Twelfth Indiana. It is rumored that a mail for us was destroyed by the Confederates at Holly Springs.

The weather has been quite warm and delightful—scarcely any need of fire. The roads are splendid. It is raining hard to-day, however. Last evening (Christmas) I took tea with Captain George Nelson and Lieutenant Godown. It was warm enough to set our table out of doors. I have made the Twelfth Indiana several visits, and Captain Nelson and Adjutant Bond have been over to see us. The boys of the Twelfth from Fort Wayne are all well and hearty.

All the plans for our campaign are to be changed, and there is no knowing what will be done with us. For the present, until communication with the world is opened, we shall remain here.

This is the fifth letter I have written you since leaving Memphis (one month to-day). Do not know when, or how, this will leave here.

Dr. McGee, our second-assistant-surgeon, has joined us and brought with him his wife. He is a lately married widower, which accounts for his bringing his wife into the field.

SATURDAY, DEC. 27.

The Twelfth Indiana has been assigned to our division by General Grant. We are all

delighted with the prospect of having the Twelfth so near us, as it is made up, principally, of Fort Wayne boys.

We expect to leave here to-morrow, or next day, for Lafayette or Moscow, on the railroad between Memphis and Grand Junction. Military authorities have determined to open and repair this railroad, over which to receive supplies, and will probably abandon the other road to Columbus, Ky. One brigade of our division will go to Lafayette, thirty-one miles from Memphis, the other to Moscow, thirty-nine miles from the same city. We do not know certainly to which point we will be assigned. Will probably build log-huts and go into winter quarters until the wet season is over. We are pleased with the prospect of getting so near Memphis and to a place where we can have a daily mail and daily newspapers.

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISS.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31, 1862.

On Sunday afternoon, just as we were getting ready to attend divine service, we were ordered to break camp and move. Marched seven miles, and camped at Lumpkin's Mills a little after 7 P. M. It was a clear, cold, bright

moonlight night. The Lieutenant Colonel and I did not pitch our tent, but made our beds out of doors between the ridges of a corn-field, not yet dry from the heavy rains received a day or two before. I must say that I never slept better, or warmer, in my life. We had one bed-tick filled with cotton, and another with corn-shucks, and with plenty of blankets, we bid defiance to the heavy frost which that night whitened everything around us.

Moved at daylight, and reached Holly Springs (seven miles) at 10 A. M. Intended going six miles farther, but General Grant changed the order, sending General McArthur's division to guard railroad at Moscow and Lafayette, and ordering General Denver to remain here. Here we are on a very pleasant camp-ground. The men have made themselves comfortable little houses, like dog kennels, with their rubber blankets and what lumber they found on the ground. There is one wall-tent to every three officers (one to a company). Two small houses within the camp limits are used for hospital purposes. Some think we shall remain here all winter. But as there is nothing certain in war, I make no predictions.

The most pleasing event to all of us, since

our campaign began, was the receiving of our first mail from the North, which we found here on our arrival. Four letters were received from you, two from father, one from mother, and one from brother Meade. Father writes that Henry is now an aide on General Van Cleve's staff.

One of our captains (Rhodes of Auburn), left sick in Memphis, died there on December 10th.

At our last camp we came very near losing four of our saddle-horses, mine among the number. They had pulled up the stakes, to which they were tied, and had strayed off. One was the colonel's, one the major's, one the quartermaster's, and the other mine. When the regiment was ready to move the horses had not been found. So the sergeant-major, four of the boys, and I, remained behind to continue the search. The sergeant-major and I took a road leading west and soon found the major's horse, but the others could not be seen. The major's horse was sent back, while we continued on and on, for about four miles until we struck another road leading to Holly Springs, six miles distant. The horses were given up as lost, and we turned our faces

toward Holly Springs, which we reached about 12 o'clock (noon). We had not been in camp long, however, before all were brought safely in by an artillery man, who, in looking for some of his own horses, had found ours. They had gone several miles across the railroad in exactly the opposite direction to that which I had taken. The quartermaster's horse had lost his halter. All else was safe, and we congratulated ourselves upon our good fortune. The tramp of ten miles was of much benefit.

To-day all the troops were mustered for pay, as is the custom at the end of every two months. We think it probable that the paymaster will visit us soon after railroad communication is established, as this army has not been paid for six months.

The Twelfth Indiana is camped quite near us, and we see Captain Nelson and the rest frequently.

I am increasing in weight, and have not been sick a day since I received my commission.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2, 1863.

New Year's day was not much observed in the army. It was quiet, and all the officers were busy making out their pay-rolls and

monthly returns. Though always kept pretty close to my office, I think I had more business than usual yesterday.

Have not yet been up town to see what Holly Springs looks like. Should judge, however, it is quite a pretty place of about four thousand people. The country around about is hilly.

It is thought the railroad will soon be finished to Memphis, and that the first mail will leave here on Monday next.

This letter goes by private conveyance early in the morning.

Have just received notice that I am to be detailed to-morrow as an aide on the staff of Colonel John A. McDowell, commanding our brigade. Not much of a position, but a good place to make acquaintances, and it will probably be a stepping-stone to something better.

WOLF CREEK, SOUTHEAST OF
GRAND JUNCTION, JAN. 7, 1863.

Have time to write only a few lines to send by a captain of the Sixth Iowa, who goes to Memphis in the morning. This is my sixth letter. The last was quite lengthy, from Holly Springs, carried north by Parson Goodwin of Indianapolis.

On Sunday last received an order detailing me as aide-de-camp on Colonel McDowell's staff—the detail to date back to Jan. 1st. Moved over same day order was received. Like the position very much. Colonel McDowell is from Keokuk, Iowa, and is a brother of General Irvin McDowell now in Virginia.

Left Holly Springs yesterday morning and moved fifteen miles northeast to Salem. To-day marched nine miles north to this creek. Will probably be here a day or two. It is thought we will go to Corinth, Tenn.

Have heard some of the details of fight at Vicksburg. General Morgan L. Smith, severely wounded, was with us until General Sherman turned back from College Hill. The only time I ever saw General Smith, he was superintending the bridge-building at Wyatt. Was a fine man and a good general.

At Holly Springs, the night before we left, I saw, for a few hours, my cousin Arthur Mendenhall, in the Fourteenth Illinois. We had not met for twelve years.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE,
GRAND JUNCTION, TENN., JAN. 13, 1863.

On Sunday last it was my good fortune to receive seven letters—two from home and five

from you. My last letter to you was from our last camp, five and a half miles southeast of this place.

We arrived here last Friday. Four regiments and one battery of our brigade are here. The remaining regiment and the other battery are at Davies' Mills, six miles south, on the railroad to Holly Springs. The other brigade is at Lagrange, three and a half miles west, on the railroad to Memphis. General Denver's headquarters are at Lagrange.

We are now once more in communication with the world. The railroads to Memphis and Columbus are both in operation, and a mail is received every day.

Our business, for some time to come, will probably be to guard the railroad, and yet we may be ordered away in a week—so uncertain are the movements of an army.

The army in the southwest has lately been reorganized, but the One-hundredth Indiana still holds the same place, McDowell's brigade, Denver's division. General Denver, I understand, is to have another brigade given him.

General Denver visited our headquarters the

other day and took dinner with us. He is one of the pleasantest gentlemen I have ever met.

I see by the newspapers that General Van Cleve was wounded in General Rosecrans' great battle. Henry was on his staff, and I am anxious to learn how he fared.

My new position on Colonel McDowell's staff is a very pleasant one, so far as personal comfort is concerned. I have a good wall-tent all to myself, in which I can be as retired and quiet as I choose.

I still keep well, and weigh one hundred and forty-seven pounds, two pounds more than ever before.

The quartermaster of the One-hundredth Indiana met us here bringing with him, from Memphis, tents for the regiment, so that now the boys are pretty well fixed. Colonel Stoughton, appointed to the colonelcy of the regiment, has not yet made his appearance, nor has he written a word to the regiment.

The contrabands here are more numerous than the soldiers. They flock-in from every direction, and move off daily, by hundreds, on the cars going to Memphis—men, women and children, of all ages. Poor creatures! I pity

their condition, and wonder what will become of them. They have a very indistinct idea of a "Land of Jubiloh," to which they are tending, but where it is, and when the "Jubiloh" will begin, they cannot even conjecture. They believe that by this war their condition is, somehow, to be improved. I saw the other day an old man and an old woman, so infirm that they could scarcely hobble along, trying to find a place on top of bales of cotton on the cars. They were pushing on with the rest to the "Land of Jubiloh." When told that they would not live a year after going north, and that they had better stay at home, the old man replied that if he lived only one day there he would live that day a free man.

Another incident worth mentioning. I saw yesterday, among the negroes about the railroad station, a white woman of over fifty years of age. Her hair was gray and her face wrinkled, but she bore traces of having once been quite good-looking. I wondered how she came to be in the crowd of contrabands, and I asked her the question. She said her children had all left home to go to Memphis, and that she wished to go along to look after them.

This reply served only still more to excite my curiosity, and I remarked that I did not know that any of the white people were leaving their homes and going north. She smiled and said, although she was white, she was a slave. That her father was a white man, but her mother had a little negro blood in her veins, sufficient to make her children slaves. I never before saw such an instance. Her lips were thin, her eyes clear, her nose thin, and no stranger would pronounce her other than a white woman.

This morning I saw a slave whose hair and whiskers were as straight as mine, and whose complexion was as light. Our colonel took him for a white man, and so we all did.

Weather here is as delightful as it is with you in September.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE,
GRAND JUNCTION, TENN., JAN., 25, 1863.

Colonel Stoughton of the One-hundredth Indiana arrived a few days since, bringing with him a letter from mother, besides several newspapers and the *Atlantic* magazine for January. I assure you the latter were very acceptable and were greedily devoured. I have plenty of time for reading now.

Henry arrived home on the 14th on a short visit. General Van Cleve (wounded) had gone to Cincinnati to recover, thus giving Henry a fine chance to see his friends.

Chauncey Oakley, mother writes, has resigned his commission in the Eighty-eighth on account of poor health, and is now at home.

Father has sent me two letters of introduction to General Denver, and one to General Sherman from his brother the Senator. Think father will be down to see me about the first of March.

The letter I wrote you from Yocknapatalfa, together with one to mother, were not carried north, as I had supposed, by private conveyance, but were mailed in the ordinary way, and probably captured and destroyed by the Confederates in their raid on Holly Springs.

General Denver has gone north on a leave of absence for thirty days. This seems to make it a fact that we are fixed for the winter upon this railroad, and are to have no share in the fight at Vicksburg, unless perhaps we may be called upon to reinforce the army already on the way there. This latter, however, will hardly happen, as General Grant, with his seventy

thousand men and the co-operation of General Banks, will be able to do the work.

GRAND JUNCTION, TENN.

FEB. 23, 1863.

General Denver has returned, and I have presented my letters of introduction. I don't know what it will all amount to. He told me that, when in Ohio lately, some of my friends had spoken to him of me.

The troops at Corinth, Jackson, Grand Junction and Lagrange are now under the command of General Hamilton, and as he has done nothing but guard the railroad for a long time past, it looks as though that would be our business for several months to come. It is my opinion that we shall have nothing at all to do with the taking of Vicksburg.

Last Thursday night, about 9 o'clock, a negro came in and informed us that Sol. Street, a noted guerrilla in this country, with fifty men, was then at his master's (McClellan's) house, six miles southeast of this place. Six companies, under command of Major Miller of the Sixth Iowa, were sent out to trap the old fellow. I went with them. The night was very dark, and when about half way out, Major Mil-

ler and the negro guide having pushed on so far in advance of the column as to be out of sight, we mistook the road and turned off to the left. We followed this road about a mile before we discovered our mistake. This mishap delayed us nearly two hours, and it was 3 o'clock in the morning before we reached McClellan's. The house was cautiously surrounded, but we were too late. The birds had flown about an hour before. Street is around enforcing the Conscription Act. He carried off McClellan and his son, and passed on to Saulsbury. Street is very bold and shrewd, and hitherto has defied all attempts to ensnare him. He makes it a point never to remain all of the night in the same place. We have no cavalry at Grand Junction. If we had two companies of cavalry I am confident we could catch him. We could have followed him the other night had our force been cavalry instead of infantry. The negroes bring us word every day or two, of Sol. Street's whereabouts.

GRAND JUNCTION, TENN.

MARCH 1, 1863.

Mother writes that General Van Cleve will not be fit for duty for thirty days, and Henry,

therefore, has another leave of absence. He has gone to join father at Boston, and intends visiting you, and will visit Princeton also. I wish I might have the privilege of visiting my friends. Perhaps I may have, when I have been in the service as long as Henry.

Captain Harland, General Denver's adjutant-general, was here Friday evening and told me that General Denver wished me on his staff as aide-de-camp. Colonel McDowell also said that the General had spoken to him of the matter. I expect the order to-day. 'This position will take me entirely out of my regiment. My rank will continue the same, but if the General should be promoted to major-general, it will probably be raised to that of captain. I am gradually rising, and have no reason to complain.

Colonel McDowell returned from Memphis on Friday, but has not resumed command of the brigade. His resignation papers have not yet returned from General Grant's headquarters, but he has no doubt that they will, in due time, be accepted.

The cars now run through to Columbus, Ky. The train leaving there at 6 o'clock A. M. arrives here at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, SIXTEENTH CORPS,
LAGRANGE, TENN., MARCH 4, 1863.

I wrote you in my last of my expected appointment upon General Denver's staff. On that same day (March 1st) the order came. The next morning (Monday) I moved up, and here I am "as snug as a bug in a rug." Our headquarters are in a large two-story frame house. Captain Harland and I occupy one room together.

To-morrow afternoon there will be a review of the troops in Lagrange by Generals Denver and Hamilton.

No more troops are to be taken from this line of railroad to reinforce General Grant.

The paymaster will be here in a few days, but will pay only to October 31st. The Twelfth and One-hundredth Indiana regiments were paid up to this time before leaving Indianapolis, and therefore will not receive any pay now.

LAGRANGE, TENN.
MARCH 8, 1863.

Do you want me to obtain a leave of absence to visit you? I would love to dearly, but it is next to impossible to get home now, unless I am very sick and the surgeon should recom-

mend it. Perhaps some time next summer I might possibly get away.

Since I wrote you last (March 4th) several changes have taken place in the position of our division. A new brigade has been formed, named the First, in which is the One-hundredth Indiana, and Colonel Loomis, of the Twenty-sixth Illinois, is the commander. The Twelfth Indiana still belongs to the Second Brigade. General Lauman's division having moved nearer Memphis, our division has been strung out from Grand Junction to Collierville. The One-hundredth is somewhere near the latter place. The Twelfth Indiana and Fifteenth Michigan remain at Grand Junction. The Sixth Iowa and Forty-sixth Ohio are here. Our headquarters continue as before, at Lagrange.

My friend Tucker, quartermaster of the One-hundredth, is now quartermaster of the First Brigade. This is a sort of promotion, analogous to my place with Colonel McDowell.

Ed. Taylor of Columbus, Ohio, a schoolmate at Oxford, is now in Memphis, a captain in the Ninety-fifth Ohio. I hope to be able to visit him soon.

I trust father will come to see me. I shall look for him now every day.

Enclosed is a profile view of my humble self drawn by our topographical engineer, a young German. I think it a good likeness.

LAGRANGE, TENN.

MARCH 20, 1863.

From what I learn this morning there is to be quite a change here at headquarters, and I shall probably return to my regiment. General Denver has resigned and is going home. General Wm. Sooy Smith, from General Rosecrans' army, I believe, is to succeed him. If General Smith does not bring with him a full staff I may get a position with him. When I wrote you some time ago that my position here was one that took me entirely out of my regiment, I was mistaken. It was merely a *detail*, the same as when I was on the staff of Colonel McDowell, still holding my place as adjutant of the One-hundredth Indiana. General Denver's other aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Williamson of the Seventy-second Ohio, is in the same predicament, although he has been with the general for nine or ten months. I cannot now go back to my old place in the Second Brigade for my regiment does not any longer belong to the Second Brigade, but to the First, and on the

First Brigade staff there are already two lieutenants from the One-hundredth.

Should there be no place for me with General Smith, I shall go back contentedly to my regiment, and wait for something to turn up.

No one outside of the staff knows anything of General Denver's resignation, and probably will not for a day or two. Nor do I know yet upon what grounds he made his application.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, SIXTEENTH CORPS,
LAGRANGE, TENN., MARCH 23, 1863.

Saturday's mail brought me a lot—one letter from father, four from you, and two newspapers from father.

General Smith arrived on Friday and General Denver left this morning (Monday). General Smith brought with him an adjutant-general and a quartermaster. He wishes, however, to retain the old staff of General Denver. His adjutant-general had some time since sent in his resignation and is only waiting to hear from it. Captain Harland, General Denver's adjutant, will therefore continue here and take the place of the other adjutant if his resignation is accepted.

General Smith is a very pleasant gentleman

and I think I shall like him. Is a graduate of West Point, and was colonel of the Thirteenth Ohio. Commanded General Nelson's old division in General Rosecrans' army.

I shall continue here as aide-de-camp, and just now there is every prospect of our remaining here all Summer.

Father writes that he will be down to see me about the first of April.

Next Sunday (29th) I shall be twenty-five years of age.,

LAGRANGE, TENN.
MARCH 27, 1863.

Your good letter of the 18th I found awaiting me on my return last evening from Collierville, where I had gone on the morning train to visit my old regiment, the One-hundredth. I found the boys on good camping ground, in fine health and spirits. Collierville is about twenty-five miles west of here, and half way between this place and Memphis.

The more I see of our new General the more I like him. Though a West Point graduate he puts on no airs. Is kind and friendly in his manners, and has a great deal of good hard sense. Is thirty-three years of age, but looks

much younger. He continues me in the same duties I had under General Denver, viz; examining the records of the cases as they come from the court-martial, and making up the orders thereon.

My belief in the power of our Government and its ability to crush out this rebellion is stronger to-day than ever it has been since the war began. I believe also that this year will not close before the war is finished. Everything seems to be favorable to such a result.

Yesterday, a young lady, attired in black, who lives near Holly Springs, Miss., came to Lagrange, and claiming to have had some mules stolen from her by our men, wished to recover them. General Smith was very accommodating and polite, and had his quartermaster running about for half the day, hunting up the mules. I saw her this morning in the general's room and was much struck with her beauty. About an hour after she left here she was brought back by one of our picket guards. As she was passing out of the lines, the sentinel suspected that she had something under her dress which ought not to be there, and upon examination, found tied to her crinoline a pair of *men's boots*. You may be assured the beautiful

young lady was exceedingly mortified on confronting the general, who had shown her so much kindness.

LAGRANGE, TENN.

APRIL 5 1863.

Have had a bilious-ague attack during the past week, which has unfitted me for business, though I have not been confined to my bed. Am much better to-day, and think that I am now fairly over it. This is my only illness since that at your home, nearly two years ago.

General Smith's wife, whom he lately married at Bowling Green, Ky., arrived here on Friday. She is tall, handsome and stylish. The general and his wife, and a lieutenant and his wife, have taken a house in another part of the town. There is some talk that I am to live with them, so as to be near the general should anything need immediate attention.

LAGRANGE, TENN.

APRIL 14, 1863.

The responsibility in this court-martial business is more than I like to assume. Neither General Smith nor his adjutant-general has any knowledge of law, and they dislike the very mention of court-martial business. And even

of such questions of custom and usage in the army, as their long service ought certainly to qualify them to decide, they seem to know nothing, but throw it all upon me, who have been in the service but a few months. This makes my present position very embarrassing, and I have frequently wished myself back with my regiment. For, if I make a mistake, I thereby compromise the general. This was not the state of things when General Denver was here.

When I wrote you last I thought I had quite recovered from the ague, but I was mistaken. Last evening I had another hard chill. You have no idea how terribly blue these chills make me.

LAGRANGE, TENN.

APRIL 19, 1863.

On Thursday I was ordered to Memphis to attend to some business. Spent one day there and returned Saturday morning. I met in Memphis an old friend, Ewing Mears of Indianapolis, who was there on business for a house in St. Louis.

On my return to Lagrange I found that an expedition against a party of Confederates collected south of the Tallahatchie River, had started the day before. The force consisted of

infantry, artillery and cavalry. All moved light, without baggage, and with but five days' rations. General Smith commanded in person, and took with him his adjutant-general, aide-de-camp Williamson, and the topographical engineer. The quartermaster, commissary, Captain Harland and myself were left behind. Colonel Loomis, commanding the First Brigade, is now in command of the division, Captain Harland acting as assistant-adjutant-general. Have heard nothing yet from the expedition, and probably shall not until it returns. Whether successful, or not, it will not bear materially upon the result of the war.

LAGRANGE, TENN.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1863.

Yours of the 18th received on Saturday, but I have been too busy to reply until now. On Sunday I frequently work as hard as on other days. This is a very serious objection to one's being in the army—there is no Sunday, and no church.

Do not give yourself any uneasiness in regard to my health. I think I can safely say that I am rid of the ague, not having had a chill for nearly two weeks.

General Smith's expedition returned last Friday night, having been absent eight days, and travelled one hundred and fifty miles. There was no fighting, the enemy having scattered and effected their escape. They brought in, however, about three hundred mules and horses.

Captain Atkinson (adjutant-general who came here with General Smith) has received word from the department that his resignation has been accepted. He is still with us, but will leave soon. He proposes to live on a farm near Chicago, and engage largely in horse-raising.

Our aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Williamson of the Seventy-second Ohio, which is now in the Fifteenth Army Corps (General Sherman) on the Mississippi River, has been ordered to the regiment by his colonel. He will probably receive the captaincy of his company, there being a vacancy. Another aide, to take his place, has already been detailed, Lieutenant Nelson of the Seventieth Ohio Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel Heath, of the One-hundredth Indiana, has sent forward his resignation; reasons given, the poor health of his wife, and the confusion of his business. I have my doubts as to its acceptance.

Yesterday morning, about day-break, my horse and a roan mare belonging to Captain Atkinson got loose in the stable, and, the bars being down, they put out. I hunted for them all day, and finally, about five o'clock in the afternoon, in the rain, took ten cavalrymen and started out on the Bolivar road. At sun-down we came to the house of Mr. Jones, a large planter living five miles out. There we found the horses, which had been caught and tied up by the negroes about nine o'clock in the morning. Found also two other horses, which had strayed away from Lagrange in the same way. This is the second time I have almost lost my horse. And what is singular is that every time he gets loose, he breaks straight for the country as fast as he can go, and always takes a *new* road, one that he never saw before.

LAGRANGE, TENN.

MAY 1, 1863.

Lieutenant Nelson, Seventieth Ohio, lately detailed as an aide, remained only a few days, and was relieved at his own request. Lieutenant Williamson is about leaving for his regiment, and I shall be the only aide left. I heard an intimation this morning that General Smith

was about to reorganize his staff, and that I too would be relieved. This would not surprise me. The General, I imagine, entertains no special fancy for me. I was thrown upon his hands by General Denver, and I have no claim whatever, upon his favor. If I do not suit him I have no right to expect that I shall be retained. I have several times wished myself back in my regiment, and now I am soon to be gratified.

The One-hundredth Indiana was paid the other day. I went to Collierville and received my pay to February 28th (four months) four hundred and sixty-five dollars.

COLLIERVILLE, TENN.

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1863.

As anticipated in my last letter, I have been relieved from duty at General Smith's headquarters. Lieutenant Williamson and I were relieved by the same order last Saturday. As yet, there is but one aide-de-camp there to take our places, Lieutenant Campbell of the Seventieth Ohio, who has been, for some time past, provost marshal of Lagrange.

I returned to my regiment on Monday, and the same day father arrived unexpectedly to make me a visit. He left yesterday afternoon,

and will probably go up the river to-night. Father said he would endeavor to have me appointed a commissary of subsistence with rank of captain. This is a business position, not a fighting one. I would not be on the staff, strictly speaking, but my place would be (if not assigned to a post) at the headquarters of the general, and my name announced in the orders as one of the staff. The commissary is somewhat independent of the general, and is assigned to a division, or post, by the chief-commissary of the department, or army corps.

For the present I am removed from my regiment, being detailed as judge-advocate of a court-martial for our brigade, just about convening in this place. I am probably well suited for this position, having been engaged, for the last two months, in reviewing court-martial cases. This court will likely continue two months at least, if we do not move from here. At the end of that time I hope father will have secured for me the appointment of commissary of subsistence.

The One-hundredth was out last week on a scout, and the acting adjutant, Lieutenant Fast, received a musket ball in the hip. It was only a flesh wound, and he will soon recover.

Captain George Nelson of the Twelfth is applying for leave of absence for twenty days, to visit his home.

I was paid to first of May on staff-roll before leaving Lagrange. After retaining sufficient to supply my needs for some time, I sent home, by father, four hundred and thirty dollars.

On Wednesday and Thursday the weather here was cold enough for an overcoat. This is unusual for this month in this latitude.

COLLIERVILLE, TENN.
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1863.

I found your letter of the 8th here, on my return from Memphis, where our court-martial had been to take the testimony of a sick captain of the One-hundredth Indiana. We went on Saturday, and returned yesterday afternoon.

Colonel Reub. Williams of the Twelfth Indiana, taken prisoner at Holly Springs and lately exchanged, returned to his regiment on Saturday. Stephen Bond came down with him and returned home to-day.

We had quite a scare yesterday and last night. General Chalmers is south of us, nine or ten miles away, with six thousand men

(mounted). We feared a raid upon the railroad, but could not tell exactly where it would be made. We were all up and ready before daybreak this morning, but were not disturbed. The enemy is still hovering near, but I hardly think he is willing to risk much of a fight. Most of his men are conscripts.

Lieutenant-Colonel Heath's resignation, founded upon private reasons, went through to General Grant and was refused.

My health is now first-rate. No more ague.

ONE MILE FROM MEMPHIS, TENN.

MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, 1863.

Left Collierville yesterday at 5 A. M. and reached here in the afternoon, having marched with all the trains and baggage twenty-three miles. This we call a splendid day's work, when we consider that the brigade is out of practice, and has done but little marching for the past five months. The division is now all in and around Memphis. They say the steamboats are ready to take us down the river to Vicksburg. We are waiting for orders to march on board. It is possible we may not get away until to-morrow.

Colonel Stoughton of the One-hundredth In-

diana is still quite sick, and has applied for a leave of absence.

Our friends in the Twelfth Indiana are all well, and the troops generally are in good spirits.

My health continues excellent.

ON BOARD STEAMER BELLE MEMPHIS,
WEDNESDAY NIGHT, JUNE 10, 1863.

I wrote you last Monday morning from our camp near Memphis. During the same day our brigade was loaded onto the boats, and on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock we moved off. We occupy four boats as follows; One-hundredth Indiana on the B. J. Adams, Twenty-sixth Illinois on the Diana, Ninetieth Illinois on the Belle Memphis. On the latter boat are Colonel Loomis and his staff. Our brigade was the first of the division to leave Memphis. Owing to a severe storm last night, we tied up, and by morning several of the fleet had caught up with us, so that nearly all day we had ten steamers in sight. About three o'clock this afternoon the Belle Memphis pushed ahead, and we soon lost sight of the rest of the fleet. If nothing happens, we shall reach Young's Point by mid-

night. Shall probably land to-morrow at some point up the Yazoo River.

Our boat is one of the best and fastest now running on the river. We are not at all crowded, and thus far the trip has been very comfortable and pleasant.

We passed Helena yesterday afternoon at half past four o'clock. I saw there, for the first time, a regiment of negroes.

We are now having heavy rains. Had a severe storm on Monday while in camp, and during Monday night, yesterday, and to-day, storm has followed storm, accompanied by the most terrific thunder and lightning.

Colonel Stoughton of the One-hundredth was left sick in Memphis, and has a leave of absence. Lieutenant Fast, who was wounded some time since, has a leave of absence for twenty days.

Lieutenant Jones, of Company E, One-hundredth Indiana, has been appointed major of the Third Battalion of First Tennessee (Negro) Artillery.

Perhaps you remember a German boy named August Hitzfield, who used to live in our family in Fort Wayne many years ago. He learned to speak English with us, and

mother taught him to read and write English. He is now in Memphis, one of the firm of Miller & Hitzfield, Wholesale Grocers and Commission Merchants, 95 Front Row. I heard Monday evening that he was in Memphis, and had been inquiring for me. I went immediately to his place of business, but found it closed. The next morning it rained so hard that I did not leave the boat. I regret very much that I did not see him.

STEAMER BELLE MEMPHIS,
JUNE 11, 1863.

Arrived at the place on the Yazoo River, where supplies are landed for General Grant's army, about 7 o'clock this morning. Stopped there some time. The G. W. Graham is with us, but the other boats have not yet come up. We are on our way to Haines' Bluff, where we will unload.

I shall send this by Colonel Lucas, Sixteenth Indiana, who goes north to-day.

SNYDER'S BLUFF, YAZOO RIVER, MISS.
SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1863.

I wrote you on the 10th, and added a line on the 11th. In that letter I said we were go-

ing to Haines' Bluff. This was a mistake. We landed at Snyder's Bluff, three miles below. Our fleet consisted of sixteen transports, heavily loaded, containing at least ten thousand men.

These bluffs are very strong by nature, and the Confederates had expended a great deal of labor here, making them next to impregnable. You will recollect that they were not taken by assault, but were evacuated by the Confederates, who feared they would be cut off from Vicksburg.

We are camped near the top of the ridge, and have a fine view of the country and the Yazoo River. Are about eighteen miles from the Mississippi at the mouth of the Yazoo. We can easily see, across the country, the smoke of the steamers going up the Mississippi.

On the day we arrived here, there was considerable fighting in the rear of Vicksburg, as we could plainly hear the artillery and musketry of the land forces, and the shelling from the mortar-boats. This continued, at intervals, during the whole day. There was firing again last night.

General Grant's headquarters are in the rear of Vicksburg, about the centre of his line. He

has telegraphic communication along the whole line encircling the city, and also with Haines' and Snyder's Bluffs, and with Chickasaw Bayou Landing, three or four miles below us.

The weather is warm, but we have a good breeze and several springs of good water. My impression is that this is a healthful place. General Grant's army is reported very healthy.

Your letter of June 1st and one from mother of the 3d received yesterday. This mail was brought from Memphis on General Smith's boat, New Kentucky.

Lieutenant Williamson, who was with me as aide to General Smith, was severely wounded in the leg, on May 31st, in the rear of Vicksburg. Was then on General Buckland's staff. He was in a sitting position, when a musket ball entered the knee of the left leg and came out at the hip — a very dangerous wound. I understand he has been sent north.

My friend Tucker has had a lift. Has been detailed on General Smith's staff as division quartermaster.

Our court-martial has been dissolved, and I am now once more with my regiment.

Our brigade has one thousand men a day

at work on the fortifications looking east. With a little work we can make these bluffs impregnable. We are wonderfully well protected by steep hills and deep ravines.

Three divisions of General Hurlburt's army corps are now here. The entire corps is coming to this point. We shall remain here until Vicksburg surrenders, and perhaps some time after.

General Johnson cannot raise the siege without first taking these bluffs, for if he goes by us and attacks the besieging army, we are in a fine flanking position and can close in behind him.

TREMONT HOUSE, CHICAGO, ILLS.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 1863.

You will wonder why I am here. On Saturday (the 13th) I received notice of my appointment by President Lincoln to the position of commissary of subsistence, U. S. Volunteers, with the rank of captain, dated June 1st, with orders to report in person to Major-General Rosecrans. I also received a letter from father dated June 2d, saying that he had been to Washington, urging my appointment, and hoping I would receive it in the course of

three or four weeks, and that when I did, it would be expected that I should take time enough to come home to have my bond (six thousand dollars) fixed up. I left the Yazoo River the next Monday on the Alice Dean,* and arrived at Memphis, Wednesday, at 8 p. m. Thirty-five miles below Memphis we were fired into by the Confederates — two hundred men and two pieces of artillery. The balls flew uncomfortably thick, but we were not disabled, and succeeded in running by. One man (a deck-hand) was shot through by a six-pound ball and killed almost instantly. Another was slightly wounded. One musket ball passed through my stateroom, but luckily I was not there. The Confederates were at a bend in the river, and to clear the bar we were obliged to run quite near the shore. I learn that the day before, boats were fired upon between Memphis and Cairo. It is getting dangerous to travel on the river.

Left Memphis Thursday evening, made

* A few weeks later the Alice Dean was captured and burned on the Ohio River by the troops of General John Morgan on their raid through the States of Indiana and Ohio.

Cairo Friday night, and last night arrived here.

Have some business to attend to to-morrow, and shall reach home to-morrow night. If possible, will steal a few days to visit you. I imagine father knows nothing yet of my appointment. My arrival will be a surprise.

Do not rely too much on seeing me, but if it is among the possibilities, I shall be with you.

CHICAGO, ILLS.
SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1863.

I arrived home safely on Saturday morning.* The only delay was at Harrisburgh, where I had to change cars in the night.

As to my clerk; the railroad ticket-agent objected to having his son go, and Ainsworth could not tell for a few days whether he would take the position, having something else just then in view. So yesterday I took the train for Chicago to see a young man named Moore. Since arriving here, I find that he has gone to Milwaukee. Shall telegraph him to meet me here. In the meantime I shall be on the look-out for others. Am afraid I shall have trouble

* After making the visit proposed in preceding letter.

finding a suitable clerk, and that my return to the army will be somewhat delayed.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

JULY 10, 1863.

I wrote you last from Chicago. Remained there until Tuesday evening in search of a clerk, and succeeded, I think, in getting a very good one. He is a young man with two years' experience in business. Writes a beautiful and rapid hand, is quick at figures, and understands book-keeping. He seems to be honest and reliable, and I trust, in time, will make me an excellent clerk. His name is John F. Degnon, and his parents reside in Cleveland, Ohio.

I left Fort Wayne yesterday morning, and my clerk joined me here in the afternoon. I am ready to leave, and may get away this afternoon, although General Morgan, who is in Indiana with eight thousand Confederates, may play the deuce with the railroads, and detain me here several days. This city is in great fear of him. There are no troops in the State, all having been sent, a few days since, to defend Louisville, Ky. The stores were closed yesterday at 3 P. M., and the people

turned out to drill. All officers in the city were required to report at General Wilcox's headquarters, I among the rest.

We are exceedingly rejoiced at the surrender of Vicksburg.

My health continues good.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

JULY, 12, 1863.

We are still in the midst of great excitement. A bridge was burned by the Confederates at Vienna, on the Louisville Railroad, and the travel on the road stopped. I understand, however, that it is now about rebuilt. Shall make an attempt to go through to-morrow. Leave here at 7 A. M. Several regiments of militia were sent from here yesterday and to-day, to head off the raiders. Have heard of no engagement yet. General Morgan's force keeps about thirty miles from the Ohio River, and seems to be moving eastward. The militia of our State has turned out with very much more spirit and alacrity than that of Pennsylvania.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1863.

Left Indianapolis yesterday morning and came through to Louisville all right, the

bridge having been repaired. Arrived here at 6 o'clock this evening. Soon after, General Rosecrans and staff came in on train from the front. Seems to be merely on a visit. I reported to his adjutant-general, Lieutenant-Colonel Goddard, also to the chief-commissary, Lieutenant-Colonel Simmons, who ordered me to proceed to Tullahoma and await his arrival there. Says I will not be placed immediately on duty, but will have time to get an insight into the business. Seems to be a pleasant gentleman. Leave at 6 o'clock in the morning.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
TULLAHOMA, TENN., FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1863.

Arrived here Wednesday noon. Am staying with Howard Stansbury, a lieutenant in the regular army and an old schoolmate, who is now here in the office of the commissary of musters. Besides Stansbury, I found two other schoolmates on General Rosecrans' staff, Captain Thoms and Lieutenant Porter. Gwynne Anderson and young Fleming of Fort Wayne are clerks in Stansbury's office.

General Rosecrans and Colonel Simmons have not returned. Look for them tomorrow. Have no idea where I shall be assigned.

The Thirtieth Indiana and Simonson's Battery (Fort Wayne) are here. Have met a host of friends and acquaintances, many more than I expected to see.

Have not yet seen Henry, nor Montgomery Hamilton. Henry is with his battery again. The company was so short of officers that it was necessary he should return. The battery is in General Sheridan's division on the front, about twenty-five miles distant. The railroad is running only to Elk River, eight miles from here. Expect bridge to be finished on Sunday, when trains will probably go through to Stevenson, Ala.

We need not expect any fighting very soon. General Bragg's army has left the State entirely. They left here in a hurry. General Rosecrans had flanked them, and, but for heavy rains and bad roads, would have made them fight.

The members of General Rosecrans' staff number about sixty.

The widow of Allan Battle,* who is an

* Joel Allan Battle, Lavergne, Tenn. Graduated from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, 1859. Adjutant Twentieth Tennessee Infantry, C. S. A., 1861-62. Killed at the Battle of Shiloh, April 7, 1862.

uncompromising sympathizer with the Confederates, and who has been traveling all over the South, was picked up near here a few days since by General McCook, and has been sent north to remain during the war. Her father, who lives in Chillicothe, Ohio, has frequently written to her to return home, but she refused, preferring to stay with her husband's friends. You doubtless recollect my telling you of Allan Battle, a class-mate in law-school in Cincinnati, during winter of 1860-61.

TULLAHOMA, TENN.

JULY 22, 1863.

While in Nashville yesterday I saw Colonel Simmons, chief-commissary, who gave me orders to report to Captain Blair, post-commissary at Decherd, thirteen miles south of this place. My position there is only temporary, and merely for the purpose of learning from Captain Blair the duties of a commissary.

Returned from Nashville this morning, and stopped here for my traps and for my horse, which I bought, the other day, from Lieutenant Davies, an Oxford school-mate, who has

been ordered to Columbus, Ohio, for duty in the provost marshal's office.

Shall go to Decherd in the morning. Am delighted with the prospect of having a stopping-place, for I am sick of running about from pillar to post.

General Rosecrans and family are still in Nashville. His headquarters, which were here when I left, were moved yesterday to Winchester, fifteen miles south.

I am staying now at headquarters of Second Brigade, Johnson's division, Colonel Dodge of 'Thirtieth Indiana commanding. Captain Ed. Edsall, 'Thirtieth Indiana, is the acting-assistant-adjutant-general for this brigade, but at present he is in Murfreesboro.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

JULY 26, 1863.

Captain Blair intends putting me to issuing supplies to detachments and making sales to officers at Decherd. He supplies, from Decherd, three army corps, and issues only in bulk. I was sent here to procure the necessary articles to transact the business, viz; desk, table, scales, measures, tents, stationery, etc. Shall return Tuesday.

Have not seen Henry yet. The Eighty-eighth Indiana, Colonel Humphrey, is at Decherd. Saw the boys yesterday. General Thomas' headquarters are there, and General Negley's division also. Major Lowrie, General Negley's adjutant-general, is a nephew of the Rev. Dr. Lowrie, of Fort Wayne. Am meeting more and more old friends every day. Yesterday, at Decherd, met an Oxford class-mate, who is lieutenant-colonel of the Fifteenth Kentucky.

Generals Crittenden and McCook have gone home. Generals Rosecrans and Rousseau are here.

DECHERD, TENN.

JULY 28, 1863.

I succeeded in getting in Nashville nearly everything I wanted, except platform scales, without which I cannot work at all. Will go over in the morning to Winchester to see Colonel Simmons in regard to getting them for me. Shall hardly get into business before the first of August.

Henry reached Nashville while I was there, having been sent up after horses for his battery. He looks well.

Montgomery Hamilton has been sick, and started home to-day on a visit.

DECHERD, TENN.

JULY 31, 1863.

I have not yet started in business at this post, and shall not, as I have to-day been ordered to the Third Brigade, Fourth Division, Fourteenth Army Corps. General Turchin commands the brigade, General Reynolds the division, and General Thomas the corps. General Turchin is a Russian by birth, and was formerly Colonel of the General-Staff, in the Imperial Guards of Russia. I am acquainted with General Reynolds, commanding the division. He is an old friend of father's. Montgomery Hamilton is on his staff as volunteer aide-de-camp.

The brigade moves to-morrow to a spot in the mountains called University Place, about twelve miles south, and a little way off the railroad. It is said to be a pleasant, cool place, with plenty of good water. My clerk is still with me, of course, and bids fair to make a very good one.

Went over to Winchester, General Rose-

crans' headquarters, to-day, and was there paid up to the first of August.

Have not seen Henry since I left him in Nashville.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE, FOURTH DIVISION,
FOURTEENTH CORPS, UNIVERSITY PLACE, TENN.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1863.

Your two letters received last Tuesday, but until now I have been unable to answer them, owing to the rush of business and the hard work consequent upon assuming the duties of my new position. Have been riding up and down the mountain, fifteen to eighteen miles, every day since I came up here. I joined the brigade on Sunday, returned to Decherd on Monday, up again on Tuesday, down on Wednesday, and returned on Thursday. We are encamped upon the top of the Cumberland Mountains. The Second Brigade, on the site of the grand Southern University that was to have been, and our brigade about one and a quarter miles farther south. From Decherd to the foot of the mountain is four miles, up the mountain two miles, and four more to the University. There is also a road to Cowan, seven miles. This is one of the best camping-

grounds I know of. Near our quarters is a very large spring of the clearest and finest water I ever drank. The only drawback is the difficulty of hauling supplies up the mountain. However, if we remain here long, they will be brought to us by the railroad, which runs up the mountain from Cowan to the coal mines at Tracy City. General Reynolds' headquarters and the First Brigade (Colonel Wilder) are still near Decherd.

This place is so delightful and cool that I had hoped we might be permitted to spend the whole summer here, but I fear it is not our lot to enjoy such a luxury, as orders were received to-night to supply and pack ten days' rations for the men, and make preparations for a move. This order comes from General Rosecrans, and applies, I suppose, to most of the army. Where we go I do not know, but conjecture to the Tennessee River along the line of the Memphis-and-Charleston Railroad, near Stevenson, Ala. We do not expect any fight nearer than Atlanta, Ga. The Confederate forces are wasting fast. Deserters from their army are coming in every day. Sixteen came into our camp to-day.

The commissary business was rather tough

for me at first, owing to the fact that the brigade had just changed commanders. General Crook had carried off with him his entire staff, and even the sergeant who was issuing-clerk in the commissary department. General Turchin was a stranger to the brigade, and his staff all strangers to him, except his adjutant-general. Add to this, the moving of the brigade to the top of a mountain, up which the teams could scarcely do more than pull empty wagons, yet over which road the brigade must be supplied with provisions. The prospect was discouraging. But, after all, it was a good thing to break me in. My citizen-clerk (Deggnon) took hold admirably, and for a few days we worked early and late. We are straightened out now, and every thing works smoothly. The old issuing-sergeant has returned, and I have had two others detailed to assist him. My sales to officers, this week, amount to two hundred and seventy-five dollars. You did not know, perhaps, that I was running a retail grocery. Have not yet been able to procure any whisky. When I do, my sales will increase largely.

Henry's battery has gone on to Stevenson. It may be that, as the troops push forward, our

brigade may come within calling distance of McCook's corps, and Henry and I may meet.

UNIVERSITY PLACE, TENN.,
THURSDAY, AUG. 13, 1863.

Everything in my department is working smoothly, and I have no reason to complain. The whole army is moving forward, and there is a prospect of our brigade's going on Sunday.

Last Saturday about eighty pounds of powder, belonging to the Twenty-first Indiana Battery, exploded, through some carelessness, and severely injured six men, burning them horribly on faces, hands, and bodies, and burning their hair to a crisp. One of the number has since died, and others are not expected to survive.

Spent last night in Decherd with Colonel Humphrey, whose regiment, the Eighty-eighth Indiana, is there.

My friend Captain Blair, commissary of subsistence, is about leaving for Stevenson, which is now to be the depot of supplies for the army.

Raining to-day. Weather has been very warm, but we have cool nights, and, take it altogether, I do not think we suffer any more

from the heat than you, who live in the far north.

JASPER, TENN.,
SATURDAY, AUG. 22, 1863.

Left the mountain last Monday. Stopped one day at Stevens' Cove at the foot of the mountain, two days at Battle Creek, and arrived here last evening. General Reynolds is here. Wilder's brigade (mounted) is at Tracy City on the mountain.

Weather warm. Have been half sick for past ten days, though not confined to my bed. Threatened with ague and a bilious attack, similar to that I had last spring in Lagrange. Am much better now.

Have not heard from Henry since I came to this brigade.

JASPER, TENN.,
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26, 1863.

For the past two days I have been and am still, in the officers' hospital, where I can have quiet and rest. My appetite has returned, and I rode out this morning. Think I shall speedily recover now. It is not the hot weather that bothers us so much, as it is the want of proper food. Have been hard up for many supplies. Yesterday our brigade-baker came, and at

same time we received a stock of flour, so that hereafter we shall have soft, instead of hard bread.

General Rosecrans was over here to see us yesterday, and while here received a dispatch that Fort Sumter had fallen and that our forces were bombarding Charleston.

JASPER, TENN.,
SATURDAY, AUG. 29, 1863.

I returned from the hospital this morning. I am well, or nearly so, and yet I have no life or energy to do anything, no heart for business. Every little sickness I have gives me the blues, and at once puts me in the notion of getting out of the service. I must have perfect health, or the service is intolerable.

General McCook's corps commenced crossing the river at Stevenson this morning. We shall probably cross here next week. Henry is in McCook's corps, and will probably cross the river to-day.

SHELLMOUND, TENN.,
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2, 1863.

Yesterday morning we broke camp at Jasper and moved forward six miles to the river, crossed on small ferry-boats, rowed by the men, and camped on this side. General Reynolds

moved his quarters over to-day, and the whole division is now across. Our supply-train, with rations to the 25th of this month, will be over by 12 o'clock to-night.

General Crittenden's corps is now at Jasper, our old camp, and will cross here Friday.

Shellmound is the name of a station on the Nashville-and-Chattanooga Railroad, eight miles from Bridgeport and twenty-two miles from Chattanooga. The railroad here runs close to the bank of the Tennessee, which, by the way, is a much wider and deeper stream than I had expected to see.

We are now in the enemy's country with only a few miles between us and him. There can be no retreating now, as it would be folly to attempt to recross the river in a hurry.

Our forces intend rebuilding the large railroad bridge at Bridgeport, burned by General Bragg in his retreat.

I have about regained my health.

TRENTON, GEORGIA,
MONDAY, SEPT, 7, 1863.

We marched from Shellmound, Tenn. on the 3d, and crossed Sand Mountain, camped one day at the foot, and moved on five miles to this place. In the evening of the day we arrived I

happened to be riding out and came across General Sheridan's division, which had just arrived from Bridgeport. Henry is in this division and I immediately looked him up. He is well and hearty. His division left the next day (yesterday) at noon, going up the valley sixteen miles to Valley Head. He belongs to General McCook's corps, which is moving towards Rome.

General Thomas, our corps-commander, has his headquarters about two miles from here on the Bridgeport road. General Rosecrans, with a portion of his staff, arrived last evening. He will probably establish his headquarters here for a while.

Trenton is the county-seat of Dade County. Has two churches, three stores, court-house, mill, and blacksmith shop. It is eighteen miles southwest of Chattanooga, and is connected with the latter place by a good railroad, which is finished only to this place, but was intended to run to some point in Alabama. We captured, at the station, one hundred bushels of fine salt, belonging to the State of Georgia, and intended for distribution among the families of the soldiers.

This movement is a very bold one, and we

are getting a long way from our supplies. When we cross Lookout Mountain in front of us, and get into the Chattanooga Valley, there will be two mountains, and more than twenty miles between us and Bridgeport, over which we must wagon our supplies.

Our corps is up to time, but that of General McCook is behind. He should have been at Valley Head, Sept. 4th. His destination, as I said before, is Rome. General Crittenden's corps is on our left, moving along the railroad to Chattanooga. Our division will probably move up the valley to-morrow and cross Lookout Mountain at the first gap. We shall then be in the rear of Chattanooga and near the railroad from there to Atlanta. We are on the eve of great events.

P. S. Sept. 9. Still at Trenton. Cannot say when we shall move. It is supposed that General Bragg's forces are evacuating Chattanooga.

IN THE FIELD, GEORGIA,
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16, 1863.

We left Trenton last Thursday. Crossed Lookout Mountain on Friday. As we came down to the foot of the mountain had a skir-

mish with the enemy. Bullets whistled freely over our heads. Had one man wounded in the arm. That night our pickets captured three Confederate cavalymen.

On Monday moved four miles forward to this point. The Confederates hold the gaps in the hills just in front of us. Our pickets and theirs are not three hundred yards apart. General Turchin, with infantry and artillery, went out this morning to drive the enemy into the gap. Have not heard from him yet.

Colonel Wilder's mounted brigade, which belongs to this division, has joined us again.

General Crittenden's corps is on our left, his pickets touching ours. Headquarters of Generals Rosecrans and Thomas are four or five miles back. General McCook's corps was ten miles to our right, but I understand it has been ordered back to join us. The other divisions of our corps are immediately on the right of ours.

We are about sixteen miles from Chattanooga, a little west of south.

Some of our officers expect a heavy battle with the Confederates.

As we came down Lookout Mountain, had a splendid view of a fight going on between General Negley's division and the Confeder-

ates, in the valley, about seven miles away. We could plainly hear the cannonading, and could see the flashes and the smoke from the guns. It was a fine sight, especially when viewed at so safe a distance.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27, 1863.

I am ashamed that my last letter was dated a long time ago — the 16th. My excuse is that we have been so unsettled that there has been scarcely any opportunity to write.

I shall not attempt to describe the battle (Chickamauga). The newspapers have told the story better than I could. Our experiences have been of the roughest kind—on the march from four o'clock P. M. on the 18th, until the next morning—then a hard fight for two days, and a retreat of ten miles to Chattanooga. For four days and nights, I never took off my clothes. The troops are now in Chattanooga and have fortified the place, and I think will hold it. Our trains are across the river for safety.

I saw Henry with his guns in position on Sunday morning, a few minutes before the second day's fight began. After our lines were

broken and the trains were ordered to Chattanooga, I heard, through Captain Edsall, that Henry was wounded in the right wrist. I turned back and tried to find him, but failed. Saw him here the next morning and took him to the officers' hospital, where his wound was dressed. Telegraphed home to father that he was safe, but wounded. He was sent on Tuesday to Bridgeport. Will probably go home as soon as he is able. The wound was by musket ball, and the bones of the wrist are injured. Even if he does not lose his hand, his fingers will probably be stiff and his hand of little use. Henry had two guns under his charge, which were more hotly engaged than the rest of the battery. The enemy got his guns. Captain Sutermeister, Eleventh Indiana Battery, says Henry fought bravely and stood his ground to the very last, and that it was impossible to save his guns. Says the order was given to withdraw, but thinks Henry did not receive it. The men of the battery are warm in their praise of Henry's bravery, and say he fired the guns himself, after his men had left them.

General Reynolds' division stood like a stone wall all through both days' fight. General Turchin, commanding our brigade, did

splendidly. Was all the time in the thickest of the battle, yet so well did he handle the brigade that its loss was comparatively small. Turchin led in every charge, hat in hand. His men are warmly attached to him since this fight. He has been with them only since the first of August. I understand the newspaper correspondents are giving Reynolds and Turchin great praise for their fighting. They deserve it.

Captain Lefevre, Eighty-eighth Indiana, and Lieutenant Phelps, Thirtieth Indiana, from Fort Wayne, were badly wounded, and are either prisoners, or dead. All others from Fort Wayne, including Calvin Anderson, are safe, and so are all my acquaintances, so far as heard from.

No knowing how long we shall remain here. Are strongly fortified, but all our supplies have to be hauled in wagons from Stevenson. The railroad will not be opened until the first of November.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.,
MONDAY, OCT. 5., 1863.

Your letters of Sept. 17th and 21st were received last week and should have been an-

swered sooner, but really I have been so occupied, day and night, with my reports (which I had no opportunity to make out when on the march), that I have had scarcely a moment's time.

Have not heard from Henry since he left. Suppose he is now at home. My last letter from home, dated Sept. 23d, said that my telegraphic dispatch sent Monday morning (21st) was received Tuesday, and up to that date, was the only news received as to the welfare of any one from Fort Wayne, engaged in the Chickamauga fight.

Captain Sutermeister (Eleventh Indiana Battery) says Henry was in a very hot place during Sunday's fight, that ten of the horses of his section were shot, and five of his six drivers were wounded, that Henry sighted the last three shots himself, and fired at short range, with canister, lengthwise into a regiment of Confederates advancing on his left, mowing them down awfully, and some of the men say, bringing down the colors each time. While he was doing this, the enemy came upon him on his right and compelled him to abandon his guns. It was just after he had mounted his horse to ride away that he was shot in the right

wrist by a musket-ball, and the corporal, who tied a handkerchief above the wound, was instantly killed as he turned away from him.

Our position here, at present, is a very critical one. The Confederates have been shelling us vigorously all day with long-range guns, and their camp fires are plainly seen upon the hills about us. The river has risen, from the late rain, and washed away our trestle-bridges, and our pontoon-bridge is not yet finished, though we hope it will be to-morrow. The troops, horses, and mules are on half rations. All our surplus horses and one third the battery horses have been sent to Bridgeport, where horse-feed is plenty. There is not an ear of corn anywhere about here, for more than twenty-five miles. All our rations and forage are hauled in wagons from Stevenson, forty-two miles, and over a mountain. Last week the enemy's cavalry captured and burned fifty of our wagons, between here and Stevenson, loaded with corn and quartermaster's stores (clothing and shoes). Our railroad will not be open before the first of November. We hope to hold the place, but if we do, we must stand a great deal of shelling, and go several days hungry. Our reinforcements,

we are told, are near at hand, and we trust they will be able to help us in opening up communications and increasing the supply of food.

General Thomas, you will see by the papers, was the great man in our late battle. He stands very high with the army.

My impression is that we shall be able to hold our position here, and will not be forced to retreat across the river.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
MONDAY, OCT. 12, 1863.

Henry, I suppose, is at home, as I heard that he had obtained a leave of absence for twenty days, at Nashville, on the 28th September.

All is quiet here, and we manage to get enough to eat.

The only thing of interest just now is the entire reorganization of this army, now taking place. I cannot tell you much about it, as there is an order against giving such information. Suffice to say, that our old division is broken up, and General Reynolds is chief of staff to General Rosecrans, a very prominent and responsible position. General Turchin's brigade has been enlarged by several regiments. All

regiments of the brigade are now Ohio troops, except one (Eighty-second Indiana). Ours is the First Brigade, Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps. General Baird commands the division, and General Thomas the corps. I shall probably continue with General Turchin, as he has requested that his staff-organization remain the same. Among all the changes that have taken place, it is probable that I might have secured a place with a division. But taken all in all, I prefer being with the old brigade, and with General Turchin, whom I like very much.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, THIRD DIVISION,
FOURTEENTH CORPS, CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
Oct. 15, 1863.

I have made up my mind to retire from the service some time during the winter. Learned lately that the Government looks upon quartermasters, commissaries, and paymasters, as citizens, rather than as soldiers, and that they have rights and privileges, which soldiers have not. I have no doubt at all that I can resign whenever I wish, and that too, without giving a reason. So about the first of January I shall express my desire to retire.

A letter from home says Henry arrived there on the 2d of the month.

Received a letter yesterday from friend Tucker, formerly quartermaster of my old regiment. He is now in Louisville, Ky., superintending the building of a railroad for the Government. He was appointed captain and assistant-quartermaster by the President, Aug. 13th, about two and a half months after I received my commissary appointment.

It has rained here continuously for three days and nights — mud deep, roads bad, and river rising rapidly.

Since I last wrote, I received orders assigning me to a brigade in General Rousseau's division, but General Turchin insisted that I should remain with him, which I was glad to do, having become acquainted with the officers of the brigade, and got everything into good running order. My orders will therefore be changed, and I shall continue with General Turchin.

We moved our headquarters to-day into a large two-story brick house, lately occupied by General Negley. My office is on the second floor, and I have a store-room down town, from which supplies are issued.

Our brigade has seven regiments, viz; Elev-

enth, Seventeenth, Thirty-first, Thirty-sixth, Eighty-ninth, Ninety-second Ohio, and Eighty-second Indiana.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

OCT. 28, 1863.

I am surprised that you believe me to have been in the fight at Chickamauga. Where did you get that impression? I was around as a commissary of subsistence, here and there, along the lines, on both days, but always *a little in the rear*, and when the bullets began to whistle close to me and the shells to burst over my head, I remembered that I had an engagement elsewhere. Besides, I had too much regard for my *health* to remain where they were burning so much gunpowder. Do not fear that I shall expose myself unnecessarily. My bravery is not of the reckless kind.

I shall start my resignation papers in a few days, but it will require nearly a month for them to go to Washington and return, and then ten days more to settle my accounts, so that I shall probably not reach home before the middle of December.

A letter from home says Henry's wound is doing well.

General Grant is here. General Thomas has the position of General Rosecrans, and General Palmer that of General Thomas (the Fourteenth Corps). General Hooker came in to-day. His army is just below here, on this side of the river. All quiet. Troops on half rations.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

Nov. 3, 1863.

How strange and how amusing that you should continue to believe that I was in the battle of Chickamauga, and more than that, that I was trying to deceive you in regard to the fact. Who in the world could have started the story of my "bravery" and "reckless daring" in the late battle? The Meeker girls commended my bravery, did they? Bless their hearts! I venture to say that they, in their parlor, were not in a much safer position than was I during the battle of Chickamauga. I almost believe that all your talk of bravery has been in irony.

General Turchin's brigade (ours) has again been engaged in daring and dangerous business. On the night of October 25th., Turchin's and

Hazen's brigades crossed the river five miles below here in the face of the enemy, secured the hills on the other side, and threw over a pontoon-bridge, which we now hold and use. Our brigade returned to-day. The bridge is now covered by General Hooker's army. Turchin, by the way, as you must know, is a very popular general and very much relied on at headquarters. If there is any hard and dangerous work to be done, Turchin is always assigned to a share of it.

Lately the high water and drift-wood swept away our pontoons, but they were repaired to-day. The river is falling.

Our rations are now brought by steamboats (two) from Bridgeport to Kelly's Ferry, eight miles below here, thence to Chattanooga by wagons, crossing the river twice on pontoons. General Turchin's crossing, and the movement by General Hooker's army opened up this new route. We hope now to keep well supplied.

My reports for August and September were forwarded to Washington some time since, and before they were mailed, were examined by Lieutenant-Colonel Paul, our corps-commissary, who pronounced them "all correct and up

snug." Am now at work on October papers, and shall have them off in about a week.

In accordance with the intention expressed in my last letter, I sent forward my resignation on the first day of November. When it reached department-headquarters, it was referred to Lieutenant-Colonel Simmons, chief-commissary. I saw Colonel Simmons this evening. He says he cannot approve it, but on the contrary, he should *disapprove* it, insisting that this army could not spare a single commissary at present. He urged me to hold on until the present campaign was over, or at least until the emergency of short rations was past. I agreed to remain until matters were a little easier. Colonel Simmons will, therefore, hold my resignation until I see him again. Thus the matter rests. I concluded (wisely I think) that it was better to fall in with Colonel Simmons' views than to incur his displeasure by insisting that he forward my resignation now. His disapproval would kill it. I feel confident, however, that I shall be able to get out of the service between now and New Year's.

The Confederates shell us every day. The shells burst above our house, and around it in

every direction, but so far none has struck the building.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
THURSDAY, NOV, 12, 1863.

Referring to my book, I find I have not written you since the 3d of this month. Please pardon this neglect. I have been extremely busy getting off my papers for October.

My citizen clerk started north yesterday and I am left alone. Captain Robbins, our brigade provost marshall, has been quite sick for the past month and has gone home on sick-leave. My clerk, who has been very homesick, determined to accompany him. I am sorry to lose him just now, for if my resignation should be accepted, I might be delayed somewhat in looking up a clerk to close my accounts.

Have done nothing more towards getting my resignation through, but shall attend to it to-morrow, or next day. I assure you I shall do everything in my power to achieve success, for I am very anxious to return to civil life. My prospects for a good business position demand that I should be at home before the first of January.

Resignations here are quite common. Many

of my friends and acquaintances have retired. Colonel Lane, Eleventh Ohio, of our brigade; Colonel Humphrey, Eighty-eighth Indiana; and Captain Edsall, Thirtieth Indiana; the first two for business reasons, the third on account of poor health.

The long-wished-for paymasters have arrived, and in the course of a week our troops will be paid up to 31st of October.

Our communications with the North are now very good; railroad to Bridgeport, steamboat to Kelly's Ferry, eight miles below here, thence to Chattanooga in wagons. Boats cannot run up to this place because of the enemy's batteries on Lookout Mountain. Rations are coming up very well. Our next issue will be full rations.

I am sorry that I cannot accept your invitation to Thanksgiving dinner. Uncle Sam has a prior claim upon my time and will insist on my remaining here and dining with *his* happy family.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 1863.

Lieutenant Porter at headquarters told me that Henry's resignation has been received. I

am glad Henry has resigned, for, with a lame right hand, the service would be a hard life indeed.

I met on the street to-day Arthur Reed, nephew to Hugh B. Reed. He has a stock of goods at Nashville, and is trying to arrange to ship a portion to this point for sale.

Received three months' pay to-day.

If my resignation leaves here by 18th November, I ought to get it back by 8th December. I shall then be relieved from duty, and eight or ten days will be required to finish up my papers. I shall consider myself extremely fortunate if I get away as soon as the 20th of December.

Weather good. Troops still on three-quarter rations.

Everything points to a movement of some kind to-morrow.

There is a report that General Sherman's army, with my old regiment, One-hundredth Indiana, has reached Stevenson.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 1863.

I saw Lieutenant-Colonel Simmons to-day and had him approve my resignation, which I

then took myself to department headquarters. It will start for Washington in to-morrow's mail. If acted on there immediately, an answer may be expected about 10th December. The resignation was dated Oct. 31st, and was forwarded, without comment, through the different headquarters. On reaching department headquarters it was referred to Lieutenant-Colonel Simmons, chief-commissary. His endorsement was dated to-day, and was in these words: "Respectfully forwarded, approved. I have detained this paper some time, in hopes I might be able to persuade Captain Williams to withdraw it, but without avail." This endorsement shows that I was worth to the commissary department at least a small effort to persuade me to remain. They thought at department headquarters that it would probably be accepted at Washington.

The reasons I set forth were:

"First: General ill health, occasioned by frequent derangement in the action of the liver and digestive organs, renders me unfit for service in the field.

Second: Matters at home of a private and delicate nature, which require my personal attention, render it not only desirable, but

make it an absolute duty, that I should at once withdraw from the service."

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27, 1863.

The last few days have been eventful for this army. On the 23d, about noon, the entire army moved out to the line of our out-posts, and drew the fire of the enemy's batteries on Missionary Ridge. On the 24th all was quiet in front, but on the right General Hooker stormed and took Lookout Point, and General Sherman crossed the river on our extreme left, at the point where Missionary Ridge touches it. On the 25th General Sherman opened the fight on the left and kept it up until after noon. At 3 o'clock P. M. the Army of the Cumberland moved in the centre toward the Ridge, drove the Confederates from their breastworks at the foot of the hills, and steadily climbed the steeps, without a single halt. In one hour and a half from the time they started, they were on the top, completely routing the Confederates, and capturing thirty-five pieces of artillery and thousands of prisoners. It was the most brilliant feat of arms during the war. With hundreds of other spectators I stood upon the para-

pet of Fort Wood and enjoyed a magnificent view of the whole battle — a grand panorama. The day was clear and bright, and with the aid of a glass, our flags and our bayonets could be seen slowly and surely climbing their way to the top. I might continue in the service all my life and never have such a fine view of a battle again.

General Turchin and staff are safe. The brigade has now gone in pursuit of the enemy. Turchin's brigade alone captured ten pieces of artillery.

Our forces lost heavily in officers. I rode over the battle-field yesterday, and went to the extreme left where Sherman's army was engaged. My old brigade, Colonel Loomis commanding, was in the fight. Did not see them, for they had gone in pursuit of the enemy, but in the hospital, nearby, I found many of my officer-friends, lying wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel Heath, wounded in the breast by a shell, and one captain and three lieutenants wounded, all of the One-hundredth Indiana. Captain Harlan of the One-hundredth was killed. Of the Twelfth Indiana, Captain Aveline and Casper Miller (brother to George Mil-

ler), both of Fort Wayne, were killed. The wounded were three captains, one lieutenant, and Lucien Barbour of Fort Wayne. The latter was shot in the cheek, carrying away a part of the lower jaw and three teeth. The field-officers and Captain Nelson, Lieutenant Godown, and Jim Bird are safe. Captain Nelson is said to have behaved very bravely. I also saw Adjutant Bond, who was struck on the head by a splinter from a tree, and for a while rendered unconscious. He will doubtless recover. I found several officers, whom I knew when in General Sherman's army, viz; Brigadier-General Corse, formerly Lieutenant-Colonel of the Sixth Iowa, Lieutenant-Colonel Gilmore, of the Twenty-sixth Illinois, and Major Ennis, of the Sixth Iowa. My old brigade is in Ewing's division.

I saw Captain Aveline's grave. He was killed instantly by a ball through the head.

I have not attempted any description of the battle, but refer you to the newspaper accounts. Our victory was complete, and the results must be very important. We cannot any longer attribute General Grant's success chiefly to good luck. Our prisoners number six thousand five hundred, and are still coming in.

Three steamboats are now running between Chattanooga and Bridgeport.

Henry's resignation was accepted on the 23d.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

TUESDAY, DEC. 8, 1863.

Stephen Bond has been here, and has taken home with him his brother, Adjutant Bond, who was slightly wounded, and is now doing well. Mr. Barbour also came for his wounded son, and Mr. Aveline for the body of his son, Captain Aveline. They left, two or three days ago.

The Twelfth and One-hundredth went with General Sherman to the relief of General Burnside at Knoxville.

Day before yesterday General Turchin, with his staff, went to the top of Lookout Mountain. Splendid view. The Confederates from that point could see everything we did. We saw there General Hooker, who, for the first time, went up to take a view of the ground he had so gallantly fought over, on the 24th November.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

SUNDAY, DEC. 13, 1863.

Father writes that Henry intends to sail for Europe on the 16th with Mr. Judd of Chicago,

our Minister to Berlin. Henry will join Montgomery Hamilton, and they will study at some German University during the winter.

Being without a clerk, I made out alone my reports for last month. My business is so systematized that I can get along fully as well now without a clerk as I did formerly with one.

My friend Tucker, assistant-quartermaster, is now in the Railroad department at Nashville.

Nothing new here. All quiet.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
SATURDAY, DEC. 19, 1863.

Our old brigade passed through here yesterday on their way from Knoxville to Bridgeport. These troops have seen very hard service, having marched almost constantly since leaving Memphis, making in all, between seven and eight hundred miles. The men have but one blanket each, are without overcoats, and many are barefooted, and this too, when the weather is cold enough to freeze hard every night. The march from here to Knoxville was made without wagons, and the men therefore had no tents to protect them, and no utensils to cook with. During the last three weeks only four days' rations were issued to them, the bal-

ance being taken from the country (destitute as it is), through which they passed. Yet, I am told, the men stood it all without a murmur. Such suffering was necessary to save Burnside and Knoxville. The privations of our brave men were, as we now know, not endured in vain.

The officers say the most of the people between here and Knoxville are undoubtedly loyal.

Colonel Loomis, commanding brigade, Colonel Williams (Twelfth), Major Johnson (One-hundredth), and other officers (ten in all) took dinner with me yesterday. Major Johnson and five others stayed with me all night. I also met Major Baldwin and Lieutenant Godown of the Twelfth, but missed seeing Captain Nelson. Colonel Williams spoke in the highest praise of the conduct of Captains Nelson and Aveline in the late fight, and Colonel Loomis commended in the warmest terms the good behavior of the One-hundredth during the battle.

The men look hardy and well, but are somewhat pulled down by their severe march.

It is not known exactly where the brigade

will winter. I suppose at Bridgeport, or Huntsville.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

DEC. 30, 1863.

On the 23d my resignation papers were returned from Washington to General Thomas with an endorsement requesting that I be relieved from duty in order that I might settle my accounts. Yesterday I received General 'Thomas' order relieving me from duty. Lieutenant Donahoe, formerly acting-commissary of the brigade, which was merged into ours, takes my place to-morrow. After I settle my accounts, which will require five or six days, I shall have nothing to do but await the acceptance of my resignation. I shall, therefore, probably obtain a leave of absence. May go to Nashville to visit my friend Tucker, captain and assistant-quartermaster, and perhaps to Louisville.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6, 1864.

My successor entered upon duty on the 31st December, and since then I have been busily engaged, straightening out my business. My

clerk, who has been absent since Nov. 10th, returned last night. He will remain with me until my papers are completed. After that, he will go to Captain Blair, depot commissary at Bridgeport. By the 10th I hope to have my accounts off. Shall then ask for a leave of absence, to await the result of my resignation. I might go straight to Fort Wayne, but I have two horses (one Henry's, the other mine) to dispose of, either to sell or, if possible, to take north. This will require some little time and management.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, 1864.

My accounts were finished last night and mailed to-day. I shall re-forward my resignation, and the acceptance of it will probably reach here between the 5th and 10th of February, until which time I am still an officer and receive pay as such.

There is nothing for me to do here, and I can, if I choose, obtain a leave of absence. I shall wait, however, until one of Henry's horses, out at Pikeville (sixty miles), which I have sent for, comes in, and has been disposed of. Henry's other horse and my mare cannot

be sold here to any advantage, and I shall therefore try hard to take them north.

Railroad-trains are expected to run here in a few days.

I am still staying at the headquarters of General Turchin.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19, 1864.

I have asked for a leave of absence for twenty days, while awaiting the action of the Secretary of War upon my resignation.

Have also applied for permission to take home with me two horses, which I trust will be granted. The horses will make my trip home slow and tedious, as I wish to attend personally to their shipment from point to point. Hope to get away from here by Thursday.

The railroad was finished to this place on the 14th, and since then supplies have been arriving in great abundance. Passenger-trains are now running regularly between Nashville and Chattanooga. There is much energy manifested since General Grant took command.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

MONDAY, JAN. 25, 1864.

I obtained leave of absence for twenty days, beginning on the 23d, and if notice of the ac-

ceptance of my resignation does not reach Chattanooga, at the expiration of that time, I shall have it extended, from time to time, until the matter is definitely settled. Left Chattanooga with my horses at five o'clock Saturday morning. Reached here Sunday morning. Am waiting here for an opportunity to ship the horses to Louisville. All the trains are running full with veteran soldiers, going home on furlough. May have to wait here a day or two longer.

My friend, Captain Tucker, assistant-quartermaster, is here on duty at the railroad depot. I am staying with him, which makes it pleasant for me. As usual, I have run across many old acquaintances. Met this morning Charles De Graw, of New Jersey, now a lieutenant in the Thirteenth United States Infantry. I was with him in the Edgehill school, at Princeton, more than ten years ago, and had never seen him from that time until now.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

THURSDAY, JAN. 28, 1864.

The horses were shipped from Nashville, Tuesday, on steamboat America, with the Seventy-fourth Ohio. Yesterday I came here by

train. The boat bringing the horses will hardly reach here before Saturday or Sunday.

CINCINNATI, OHIO,
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3, 1864.

When in Louisville, I thought of going home by way of Indianapolis. Afterwards concluded it would be more convenient to ship the horses from here, so I let them come through on the same boat on which I placed them at Nashville, and I followed on the mail-boat, arriving here Monday morning. Shipped horses to-day to Lima, Ohio, and I shall start in the morning at seven o'clock.

Have put in the time pleasantly, visiting friends.

FORT WAYNE, IND.
FRIDAY, FEB. 5, 1864.

Left Cincinnati yesterday morning, and reached home at ten o'clock at night (on a freight train with the horses from Lima).

After being thirteen days on the way with my horses, I am here all safe and sound. I hope I am thankful for the good providence that has attended me during the long seventeen months of army life.

COMPILED FROM THE RECORDS
of the
WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON,
D. C.

Edward P. Williams entered service as First Lieutenant and Adjutant of the One-hundredth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Aug. 28, 1862. Regiment organized at Fort Wayne, Ind., and mustered in, Sept. 10, 1862. Left State for Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 10, 1862. Attached to Second Brigade, District of Memphis, Thirteenth Corps, Department of the Tennessee, November and December 1862. First Brigade, First Division, Right Wing, Thirteenth Corps, Army of the Tennessee to January, 1863. First Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Corps, Army of the Tennessee, to June, 1863. Served detached as aide-de-camp to Colonel John A. McDowell commanding First Brigade, Jan. 1, 1863 to Feb. 28, 1863, and on staffs of Generals J. W. Denver and W. Sooy Smith, commanding First Division, Sixteenth Corps, to June, 1863.

SERVICE.

General Grant's Central Mississippi campaign, operations on the Mississippi-Central-

Railroad to the Yocknapatafka River, Nov. 26, 1862 to Jan. 10, 1863. At Collierville, Tenn. and along Memphis-and-Charleston Railroad until June. Movement to Vicksburg, June 7-17. Appointed and commissioned Captain and Commissary of Subsistence, U. S. Volunteers, to date from June 1, 1863, and ordered to report to General Rosecrans commanding Department of the Cumberland. Assigned to staff of General John B. Turchin, commanding Third Brigade, Fourth Division, Fourteenth Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October, 1863, and First Brigade,* Third Division, Fourteenth Corps to February, 1864. Participated in the Chickamauga campaign Aug.-Sept. 1863, battle of Chickamauga Sept. 18-21, siege of Chattanooga Sept. 24-Nov. 23, battles of Lookout Mountain Nov. 20-24, Chattanooga Nov. 23-25, Missionary Ridge Nov. 25. On duty at Chattanooga until February, 1864. Absent on leave until May. Resigned May 19, 1864, and honorably discharged from service.

* In the reorganization of the Army of the Cumberland, October 1863, General Turchin's brigade was made the First in the Third Division, Fourteenth Corps.

Edward P. Williams, Captain C. S., U. S. Vo
Elected a Companion of the First Class
in the
Military Order of the Loyal Legion of t
United States, through the Commandery
of the State of Ohio,
October 3, 1888.
Transferred to the Commandery of the Sta
of New York, November 25, 1890.
(Insignia No. 6434.)

